

和原聰同

イラスト 029

Satoshi Wagahara
Illustration Oniku

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和ヶ原聰司

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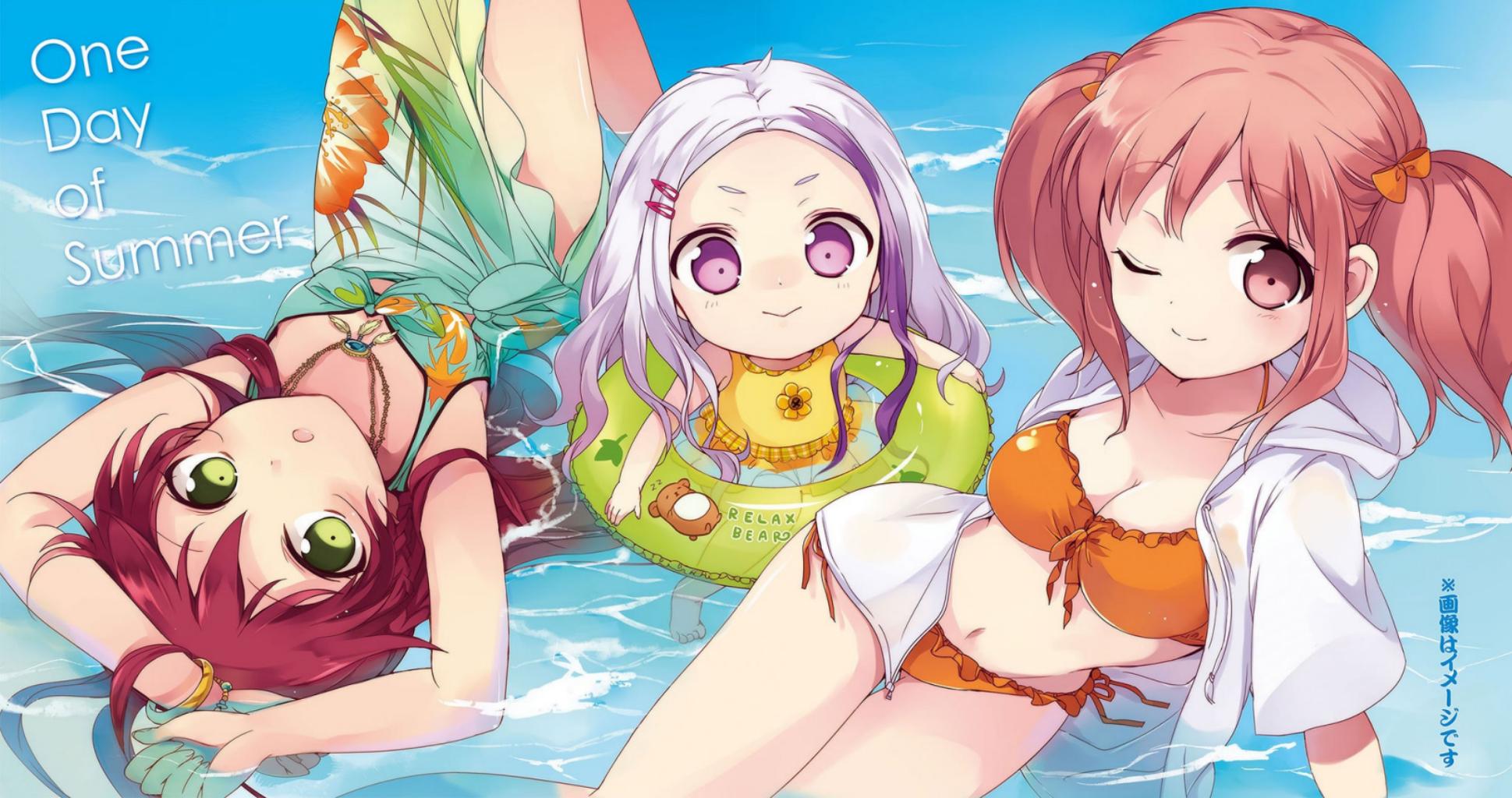
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One
Day
of
summer



※画像はイメージです

鎌月鈴乃

(訂教審議官クレスティア・ペリ)

すずねーちゃ！ きれーなふく
なの。すずねーちゃもごはん
つくるの！ だいすき！

芦屋四郎

(悪魔大元帥アルシェル)

あるしぇー！ ごはんつくる
の！ おいしい！ おそうじ
もするの！ だいすき！

遊佐恵美

(勇者エミリア・ユスティーナ)

まー！ ばばとけんかしちゃ
めつの。ずっといっしょな
の！ だいすき！

アーラス・ラムズによる 登場人物紹介

がんばる
のー！



漆原半藏

(悪魔大元帥ルシフェル)

るしふえる！ にーとつてなあ
に？ みんなるしふえるめつ
てしないで。だいすき！



佐々木千穂

(笠幡北高校二年A組)

ちーねーちゃ！ にこにこでふ
かふかなの！ ばばもままもな
かよしなの。だいすき！



遊佐恵美

(勇者エミリア・ユスティーナ)

まー！ ばばとけんかしちゃ
めつの。ずっといっしょな
の！ だいすき！



真奥貞夫

(魔王サタン)

ばー！ いつもおしごとが
んばってるの！ ずっといっし
ょなの！ だいすき！



怪奇原聲同

イラスト ■ 029

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4

魔川がゆ

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Prologue

Emerada Etuva could feel her already short height decreasing because of all the stress.

Not only was she the Holy Court Sorceress of the Saint Aire Empire, she was also widely known as the companion to the Hero, and was currently one of the most influential people in the Western Continent.

The Court Sorceress, a scholar, always gave others the impression of a consultant, and before the invasion of the Demon King's army, Emerada had no reason to interfere in politics and foreign affairs. However, her accumulated knowledge as a result of travelling around the various lands as the Hero's companion attracted the attention of the Five Continent Knight Alliance, the people in charge of restoring the land.

Ever since she was able to give her opinions as one of the important members of the Knight Alliance, the amount of responsibility which Emerada had to carry was now a lot more compared to before they challenged the Demon King's army.

Not only did she incite the feelings of jealousy amongst the important people in Saint Aire, she was also seen as an enemy because of Olba's incident, which caused a major uproar in the church.

“After the restoration of the Central Continent, I really want to escape~~”

The stress Emerada was under was so severe that she started to complain very seriously to Alberto, her travelling companion in the past.

The only thing to be thankful about was that after she was summoned to the Five Continent Knight Alliance, she ended up commanding the section in charge of wiping out the demons.

Of course, unless the demon was a really strong opponent, Emerada would not need to handle it personally.

Even then, seeing the fighters from various countries banding together to get rid of the demons in the Central Continent to carry out the pure justice of protecting the weak, she could feel that these lands were still filled with hope.

But there was something which only Emerada knew.

The battle between the Hero and the Demon King was still going on in a faraway foreign world.

However, people did not know about this. Less than two years after the defeat of the Demon King's army, most people had already forgotten Hero Emilia, treating her as a 'Legend'.

Emerada and Alberto had worked hard, hoping that Emilia would regain the fame and reputation that she had lost because of Olba.

However, the world right now did not need the name of Hero Emilia.

Dead or alive, to most of the people living in this world, Emilia Justina was only “The Hero who Exists Somewhere in this World”.

Based on what Emerada knew, there were only a few people who could see this name as a reality.

In order to restore Emilia’s name, the unrighteous actions of the Church, who sought to seal Emilia up as a legend, would have to be exposed, causing them to lose their authority.

However, if the rulers decided to carry out their justice in outrage, sometimes it would hurt the citizens in the end. If the two great powers in the Western Continent, Saint Aire and the Church, decided to go against one another, the whole continent will be split into two, thus weakening the nation as a whole.

Emerada felt perplexed.

Since the other four major continents are focusing on the restoration, naturally she would try to avoid the situation where only the Western Continent was wasting their effort on internal conflict.

Compared to her friend’s reputation, as a politician, Emerada Etuva chose the nation’s future.

This did not mean that Emerada was cold-hearted. Something happened which caused her to make up her mind.

Church Inquisitor Crestia Bell.

The top Inquisitor with the nickname “Death Scythe Bell” which people tremble in fear upon hearing her name was now a reliable comrade of Emilia.

A member of the Church who could express her opinions directly to the Pope was currently taking action to restore Emilia’s name and rebuild the church. To Emerada, this was very good news.

In addition, she belonged to an organization under Olba, this brought about huge implications.

Even if the citizens hesitate because of the punishment from the “Six Archbishops”, if Crestia corrects the actions of the Church in Emilia’s place, it would appear that the Church was handling things internally, and the stability built up through the religion would not be shaken up as much. Meaningless political battle or restlessness amongst the citizens would be kept to a minimum.

In the end, if Emilia, with her far reaching reputation, openly opposed the church, then the matter would definitely develop into something uncontrollable while greatly shaking up the citizen’s lives.

As Emilia's friend, this kind of result did make her slightly unhappy, but after considering her friend's reputation and the stability of the citizens, Emerada decided that it would be more advantageous for Crestia to handle the situation.

She wondered if she would have a chance to meet Crestia face to face in the future to praise each other for fighting for the same friend.

“I hope such a day will come! But at the same time, I don't really want to~~”

Emerada said to herself as she read the reports in the office assigned by the Five Continent Knight Alliance.

“However~~it might be better if Emilia doesn't return at all~~”

That peaceful and prosperous foreign world known as Japan.

It might not be that bad for Emilia to treat that nation as her second home, staying there and living a peaceful life.

Emerada glanced at the magical tool at the corner of the table, the “mobile phone”.

“Hey, Em, listen to me!”

Even though the other party sounded rather angry, it also held some signs of liveliness.

“Those people are supposed to be the Demon King and demons, but they actually participate in community cleaning, it’s laughable.”

This knight of the Church who staked her whole life to avenge her father---

“Hey, Em! I lost! I actually lost to the Demon King! Why are diapers so difficult to change?”

Getting angry, crying and laughing in a manner which matched her age.

A few days ago, when Emilia discussed with her about the true identity of “the girl who was born from the apple”, even she was shocked. However, rather than being concerned about the birth of the girl, Emilia seemed more concerned about the girl treating her and Maou as mother and father, and did not care too much about “Heaven” or “Sephirah”, topics which should be taken seriously and thought about.

“I want to restore my father’s wheat field.”

That was Emilia’s dream in the past.

However, once she returns to Ente Isla, she would become Emilia Justina, the Hero who saved the world. Once Emilia's reputation was restored, she would be a true symbol of justice; but for her, she would be unable to fulfill that small dream.

Even though she was able to interact with Emilia simply as a friend, but she would still face many obstacles in her path.

Unrelated to what Emilia represented, she was already an important person in the field of politics.

“In this world, things really don’t always go one’s way~~”

In order to prevent herself from becoming shorter, Emerada gave a huge sigh, changing her mood. Whatever happens after Emilia achieves her original goal would be decided by Emilia herself.

It did not matter if Emilia returns to Ente Isla or not, Emerada will work hard to create the ideal world. This was her responsibility as one who admired a young girl as the Hero.

After that, Emerada realised that she had made the assumption that Maou Satan will no longer return to Ente Isla.

The reason was simple. Because the Demon King now was no longer the Demon King known by Emerada or the citizens of Ente Isla.

The one who judged that Maou Satan was now working hard in the human world, living together with humans, and acting as a parent and taking care of “the girl who was born from the apple” was none other than the Hero Emilia.

“Peace was created without anyone being aware of how it was done~~should I reveal everything even at the cost of new sacrifices~~how troubling~~”

Emerada Etuva, Emilia’s friend and the Holy Court Sorceress of the Saint Aire Empire, these two identities were conflicting with one another in her heart.

“Eh.....?”

Emerada, who was automatically stamping documents while thinking complicated thoughts, stopped her movements because of the contents of one document.

She realised that the numbers of slain demons have increased in the recent 2 weeks. Even though it was slow, according to eyewitness accounts, the frequency of the appearance of demons had increased.

“...This feeling~~I have a bad feeling~~”

Even though there were days where the number of encounters were zero in the previous month, with the passing of each day, not only have the number of demons increased in these past 2 weeks, there was no decrease at all.

The numbers were not much, but the number of encounters had increased, this also meant the number of sacrifices will increase and this caused Emerada to frown.

If this continued, it might be better for her to investigate this personally.

She thought about it and was about to write down her thoughts on another piece of paper when—

“Emerada-sama!”

A visitor ran into the office nosily. It was an apprentice knight assigned from the Northern Continent.

“What’s wrong~~?”

The young apprentice knight looked pale and was breathing hard, his eyes filled with unease.

Before he opened his mouth, his expression already indicated that he was not about to share some good news.

Chapter 1: Maou, at his wit's end because he lost a place to live

魔王、家も仕事も失い途方に暮れる



The young girl's soft silver hair shone beautifully like the Milky Way.

Floating in the Milky Way, her bright and majestic eyes which gave off a solemn atmosphere, would not lose to the brightness of the sun and moon in space.

“So beautiful.....”

The mutterings of the man who seemed to have lost his soul disappeared into the air even before it could be heard by others.

Focusing his sights onto other areas, the energetic movements of those limbs showed lively activities.

The naïve posture during that developing stage, or rather the start of the development stage, implying endless possibilities, transcends the beauty of all the art pieces in the world.

Her legs, flexible and elegant like a Japanese Antelope, yet thin and graceful like a lily.

Her charming hands were light and beautiful, like an angel's wings, but as nimble as a cheetah.

Most importantly, the expressions, with their dizzying beautiful changes, were superior to all kaleidoscopes in the world, much more ornate than any rose, more elegant than any peony, and as illusionary as the Sakura, cannot be expressed even with thousands of songs and poems.

“Eh hehehehehe.”

Who could blame the man, who forgot about his surroundings due to his loss of common sense?

“Erhm...Maou-san.”

“Ah hahahahaha.”

After all, this man's heart had been imprisoned the whole day.

“Maou-san, can you be a little softer.....”

“Wah hahahahaha.”

Rather than the heart, it might even be his life that was being imprisoned.

“Maou-san!”

“Wah! Wha, what is it, Chi-chan?”

After being grabbed by the shoulder and shook hard, Maou Sadao, with a creepy smile on his face, finally came to his senses.

Maou turned back, and realised that his junior at work who knew about his identity, and the only young girl in the whole of Japan who he fully trusted, had her hands at her waist, puffing up her cheeks.

In the employee room at the MgRonalds branch in front of Hatagaya Station, a high school girl was currently admonishing the Demon King who planned to take over the world.

“That laughter which even I honestly thought was rather gross could even be heard from the kitchen!”

“Oh, ah? Erhm, I’m sorry, it seems like I was too engrossed in the picture.”

Sasaki Chiho, with an unhappy look on her face, looked at the slightly taller Maou, and when she saw Maou holding the free photo album from the studio, she gave a troubled frown.

“Seriously... you’re looking at pictures of Alas=Ramus-chan again, aren’t you?”

“That’s right! Take a look at this!”

Once he heard Chiho mention the photos, Maou immediately forgot about what he was told only three seconds ago and passed the album over.

“...I see you have new photos again.”

On the photo which Maou handed over, it showed an energetic silver haired girl with her arms wide open while running around what looked like a grass lawn.

“Heh heh, actually, this isn’t a picture. It was printed out after being extracted from a video, I think?”

“... ...”

“Because that Emi doesn’t bring her over much, and since our side can only wait passively, it’s obvious that we will feel anxious. This was taken when Alas=Ramus was brought to the exercise centre at Hatagaya. That time, we ran the whole day, it was so tiring!”

“...That’s great.”

To Chiho, she could only answer in this manner.

“Hey, do you want one? New pictures of Alas=Ramus?”

“... Not at the moment. I have received a lot of them recently.”

Even if Chiho did have feelings for Maou, and liked Alas=Ramus a lot, she still rejected the photo presented to her because she could not keep up with the excited Maou.

Maou had thought that Alas=Ramus was gone forever, but Emi had brought her back. During the two weeks which had passed since then, Maou’s attitude towards Alas=Ramus had progressed beyond normal levels of affection, and could be only known as overprotectiveness.

In order to record everything about Alas=Ramus, Maou, who normally did not buy anything else besides the daily necessities, actually bought old models of a digital camera and a photo printer. And from the way he spoilt the young girl, it could be seen that he was suffering from a serious sickness.

As for the photos and videos taken by the digital camera, the duty of storing them fell to the NEET fallen angel Urushihara, whose only possessions were the computer and his old reputation. Even though Maou could look through the folders to heal his soul when Alas=Ramus was not around, but by buying these items which were not considered necessities, it was obvious that it would cause Ashiya Shiro, the one in charge of the funds of the Demon Fortress, some unhappiness.

The amount of money spent on ink and other consumables was no small amount. In addition, Urushihara would not turn off the main power of the printer when he had finished using the computer, thus wasting the standby power. This increased Ashiya's stress levels, who aimed to incorporate frugality as a policy in the Demon World.

“Even though it's fine since is break time now..... Kisaki-san is going to return soon, so can you pull yourself together?”

“Don't worry, I will switch my attitude properly!”

After being lectured by a high school girl for being too lax, the shift manager cum Demon King still replied with a rather poor expression, totally lacking any persuasiveness or majestic feeling.

As the other half of Alas=Ramus 'parents'—Maou's enemy—Hero Yusa Emi, who only came over a few times every month, Maou, who doted on the girl, resembled a father who had lost the custody after an agreed divorce.

Knowing about Maou's original identity and purpose, before feeling fed up, Chiho was worried about many other issues.

“Maou-san, you're only focused on caring about Alas=Ramus-chan every single day after returning home, is that alright? Since you are able to buy a digital camera and printer, it shows that you have some savings. However, I have never heard about you having other jobs.....”

After quickly saying this, Chiho left the staff room and looked towards the calendar hanging on the wall, and mumbled to herself in an anxious tone,

“In addition, the store will be closed from tomorrow.....”

※

Demon King Satan, Maou Sadao, who planned on conquering Ente Isla, and the savior of Ente Isla, Hero Emilia, hiding her true identity with the fabricated identity – Yusa Emi.

With the young girl Alas=Ramus, who knew them as “Papa” and “Mama”, in the centre, the Demon King and the Hero reluctantly challenged the unfamiliar experience of toddler life.

After directly opposing archangel Gabriel who wanted to take Alas=Ramus away, and having many unexpected things happen, the “parents” managed to gain a close victory.

Rather than terming it a victory, it was more like the battle was cut off because Gabriel was unable to accomplish his goal due to the change in circumstances. However, Alas=Ramus was finally able to stay in the place she liked.

The problem though, was that Alas=Ramus actually merged with Emi's 'Evolving Holy Sword, One Wing'.

The Tree of Life supports the world, and Emi's holy sword and Alas=Ramus originated from one of the fruits, in other words, they are fragments of the 'Yesod' Sephirah.

Gabriel's purpose was to obtain Alas=Ramus and the holy sword, and piece the fragments of 'Yesod' together to recover the original form of the 'Sephirah'.

Even though Gabriel and the rest have ignored the fragments for an unimaginably long period of time, they have suddenly started to frantically take action to recover the 'Yesod' Sephirah.

Therefore, since Alas=Ramus had merged with the holy sword which could not be separated from Emi's body, Gabriel was unable to achieve his objective for now.

Because of this, Alas=Ramus was forced to move from the Demon Fortress —the 201 room of the sixty year old apartment Villa Rosa situated in Sasakusa, Shibuya district, Tokyo to the apartment in Eifuku Town, Suginami district, where Emi lived.

A problem surfaced then.

Alas=Ramus was extremely attached to her ‘Papa’ Maou.

If the two of them met, it would not just be a problem on her education, it might even be a negative influence on human history. Therefore, Emi, as the Hero, should have hardened her heart and prevented Alas=Ramus from meeting the Demon King.

However, the troubling thing was, Alas=Ramus had become a holy sword with a human personality, and once she felt lonely, she would start crying and fussing inside Emi’s head.

And the howls of a child had more destructive power than the roars of any beast.

When the young girl first merged with the holy sword, Emi was originally determined to disallow Alas=Ramus from going to Maou’s place, but after a short three days, that determination had crumbled.

Even though Alas=Ramus had the form of the holy sword, she still had the mentality of a young girl, and whether Emi was working or sleeping, she would ignore the circumstances of her ‘Mama’ and throw tantrums, shouting, “I want to see Papa”.

In order to avoid tragic situation of experiencing the night cries which only she could hear, Emi could only head for the Demon Fortress at a higher frequency compared to before.

Not only that, Emi also had to go through the difficult experience of raising a toddler, such as brushing teeth after meals, and changing diapers, the things which had kept the inhabitants of the Demon Fortress busy, causing her to be unable to suppress her weak spirit which made her do things in a sloppy manner.

Even though Alas=Ramus was very obedient, and would not throw big tantrums and cause trouble when she was unhappy, even if she had merged with Emi, the physical and mental functions of a little girl would still follow her own schedule. Discovering that Alas=Ramus's diapers had swollen up upon materializing her once she returned home was something which happened quite often.

However, even after all that, Emi was still unable to entrust the care of Alas=Ramus to the Demon Fortress. That's because even though Alas=Ramus was able to move independently in the form of a child, it cannot change the fact that she was fused together with Emi.

Earlier, it was already confirmed that once Alas=Ramus and Emi were too far apart, Alas=Ramus would not be able to maintain her form and would be forced to return inside Emi's body.

The distance which could be maintained between Emi and the independently moving Alas=Ramus was roughly the distance between two stations on the Keio line.

The only person who could understand Emi's despair at that time, was the one who lived next to the Demon Fortress, Inquisitor of the Doctrinal Correction Council belonging to the Ente Isla Church, Crestia Bell, also known as Kamazuki Suzuno.

Just to mention, when Sasaki Chiho knew about this—

“Hm, then there's no need to worry about her getting lost, isn't that good?”

She expressed an opinion which felt like an arrow hitting a neighbouring target.

To Emi, the reality that she could have to frequently go to the Demon Fortress was an embarrassing thing for her. As for Maou, he was in a very good mood because he was able to see Alas=Ramus frequently, so in order to maintain the stability of her emotions, she could only convince herself that this would lessen the chances of the Demon King doing anything evil.

Just like that, two weeks after Alas=Ramus and Emi starting living the life of going to the Demon Fortress, it was already the height of summer, the end of July.....

※

The manager of the MgRonalds branch in front of Hatagaya station, Kisaki Mayumi, would always proudly declare that she would never tell jokes which people were unable to laugh at.

Even though Kisaki was given the scary nickname “Revenue Demon” by her colleagues, she always treated the customers sincerely and was straightforward in her assessments of her subordinates.

Because Kisaki was such a straightforward person, Maou Sadao was unable to understand the meaning of what she just said.

Kisaki would not tell jokes which were not funny, and she would not lie. That was why it was difficult to believe.

“Tomorrow, this store will close.”

4 o’ clock in the afternoon, considered the less hectic off peak period, Kisaki announced this to all the staff in the afternoon shift including Maou and Chiho who were about to end their shift.

At this moment, Maou felt that all the surrounding noise had disappeared.

To Maou, it was as if Kisaki, without any demonic magic or holy power, had used a time-freezing spell. The moment felt so long it was like the birth of the universe, an infinite instant.

“Ma, Maou-san?”

“Wah!”

If not for Chiho softly talking to him and touching his hand, Maou would have headed towards the never-ending edge of space time, never to return.

Maou, snapping out of the sci-fi like illusion, instantly organized the various pieces of information in his brain.

Compared to the other businesses in the same area, logically the shops in front of Hatagaya station were without a doubt, well performing shops whose revenue exceeded the amount of the year before.

Even though the shop was small in scale, with their good service and sincere attitude, in addition to the meticulous attention to hygiene, this shop will always be commended during the district competition held every 3 months.

This kind of shop in front of the Hatagaya station, was actually going to disappear?

It was difficult to believe.

However, it seemed like the only shocked person was Maou, Chiho and the other employees did not seem especially shaken.

In fact, it was Chiho who was looking back at the confused Maou with a worried look on her face.

“Even though we’ll be separated temporarily, I hope that everyone would not forget what you have learnt in this store at your new workplace and work hard. That’s all I wanted to say.”

“Er, er, er, erhm, Kisaki-san?”

“Hm? Maa-kun, is there a problem?”

“Ra, rather than a problem, how should I say this.....”

Maou was unable to properly straighten out his feelings. What should he ask about? No, before that, what did she mean by a new workplace?

Why wasn’t anyone shaken by the situation? Maou felt very bewildered by this.

“You said this store will disappear.....”

Because of the single sentence Maou said after a lot of effort, Kisaki frowned.

“Didn’t I mention this to you two weeks ago?”

“Eh.....”

Even though he was asked directly, Maou did not have any impression of it at all. Speaking of two weeks ago, it was at the time when the dust had settled in the incident involving Alas=Ramus.

“Erhm..... perhaps.....”

Chiho whispered to Maou from behind.

“It was during the time when Maou-san thought that Alas=Ramus-chan was taken away...”

“Eh.....”

Maou let out yet another airheaded sound, and kept trying to search for the events which occurred two weeks ago at the bottom of his memories.

It was not long after Maou requested from Kisaki to increase the quantity of his shifts in order to raise Alas=Ramus, and Gabriel had suddenly appeared and caused a huge commotion.

Two days after that, Maou, who had thought that Alas=Ramus had been taken away, had definitely felt very depressed. He consistently made mistakes which only new employees could have made, and those two days could be said to be his worst performance since he started working at MgRonalds. Even Kisaki had started to worry about his health.....

“At..... at that time.....”

“Don’t tell me... ... you haven’t been listening at all?”

At that moment, Kisaki’s stern voice caused all the employees to tense up.

Because Kisaki was very fair when it comes to work and her feedback, she was very strict towards carelessness and arrogance.

“..... The rest of you shouldn’t have any issues regarding this, right?”

Besides Maou, everyone else moved in a coordinated fashion like a well trained army---

““““Yes!””””

And chorused.

“And that’s how things are, Maa-kun. Come with me to the office.”

Maou followed behind Kisaki, his face slightly blue.

With the atmosphere in the store feeling as though it has dropped to below zero degrees even though it was the middle of summer, Chiho and the other employees watched them go with white faces.

Kisaki let Maou stand next to the work table and started to work on the computer without saying anything.

Maou, who stood there blankly, could only continue staring at Kisaki's back.

In the end, in the corner of the office, a printer whose model is even older than the one in the Demon Fortress specially used to print Alas=Ramus's pictures, finally made a sound and spit out printer paper.

After taking the piece of paper, Kisaki finally turned back and passed the paper to Maou.

“If all these cannot work out, then I won't be able to help you anymore.”

“…… Er, erhm……? This is?”

“This is the list of MgRonalds stores that would be able to take on shifts immediately.”

“The list of MgRonalds stores... ... so that means, this store is really going to disappear?”

Maou asked, the blood draining from this face, Kisaki, on the other hand, supported her forehead against her fingers and replied with a straight face,

“It seems that you really weren’t listening to anything... ... I did notice that you replied with a vacant looking face, but weren’t notices put up on the calendar as well as on the notice board inside the store? A customer notice was even pasted on the main door, you really have been too careless recently. Basically, as long as you read the duty roster, you would have noticed that something was wrong.”

Kisaki thought that Maou was too careless, this comment was right and wrong at the same time.

Ever since Alas=Ramus appeared, Maou started to take on more shifts compared to before. In order to continue being the shift manager and obtain a stable income every day, his work hours have become fixed. Because of that, Maou read the duty roster less and less often recently.

Even though Alas=Ramus was currently living at Emi’s house, but for Maou, who publicly declared that he would be responsible for raising her, he was always on the lookout for opportunities to hand her money for taking care of Alas=Ramus.

Even if he was unable to complete the task because Emi kept rejecting him determinedly, it could still be used as backup funds in the worst situation, therefore Maou continued to work to the best of his ability until now.

While Maou recalled what he had been doing for the past two weeks, he shifted his attention onto the piece of paper Kisaki passed to him.

“Our store is a one of a kind top grade store in West Shibuya, there’s no reason to close down. It’s just that the store is being renovated to change the business model, and business will be suspended in the meantime. It will re-open in mid-August, after the Obon Festival. After all, most of the companies here will disband for summer holidays during this period as well.”

“Change the business model?”

This sentence got rid of half of the anxiousness Maou felt. Knowing that the business would not be closed permanently brought him great relief.

Even though they were all known as MgRonalds, the stores can still be divided into several types of operations, including large stores in the suburbs that have playgrounds attached to them, basic stores in the malls known as “MiniRonalds” and “Driveway” types set up on the side of the roads.

This time, for the operations type of the store in front of Hatagaya station, other than the usual meals, a café menu with strictly chosen ingredients will be set up, a side store known as “MdCafe”.

Because the products sold in MdCafe were more diverse and rich in ingredients and quality, their prices were also higher compared to the normal menu.

Even though a lot of effort would be spent to make the interior of the main dining area more classy and comfortable, the store front also needed to be changed extensively. Before changing the operation type, a lot of time would be spent on these areas.

For the interior, the lighting, ceiling, walls, floors and so on would be completely different compared to before. In order to introduce the new menu, the kitchen also needed to be improved significantly.

“Eh, but..... with the size of our shop, would we be able to open a MdCafe?”

The uncertainty which had not dissipated from Maou’s mind was because of this.

Currently there was no independently operating MdCafe in Japan. Even if part of the original space of the store was used to set up the MdCafe’s operations, within the city, only stores with a larger store area would be able to set up a MdCafe.

Even though the store in front of Hatagaya station was set up on the ground floor of an office building facing the shopping district, it was still a small store which did not even have 50 seats.

Maou was worried that by setting up a MdCafe inside the existing MgRonalds, the customer seating area would become less spacious, however, Kisaki just calmly looked up towards the ceiling.

“The second floor of this building will become part of our store.”

“Ehhh?”

“How did you think we would be able to implement such a plan in such a small store? The company on the second floor decided to move out in July, so we just went with the flow and obtained the space. Because it happened so suddenly, the development of the plan was also rather hurried, but the first floor will still be reserved for the original store. The second floor will be used for the MdCafe, there will be 90 seats in total.”

Shouldn’t they try to shrink the scale of the first floor operations, and just renovate the second floor? Maou thought this.

“It’s not possible considering the scale of the construction. The look of the store and the variety of the products, and in the end, there’s also the corporate image. Wearing a wrinkly shirt and dirty suit in front of the customers, earning their money even after they feel unhappy or dissatisfied, that is not good money at all.”

According to Kisaki, things like setting up the pipes used by both floors, and replacing the cashier system with the new POS one. Both are temporary projects, but because an extensive makeover was going to be carried out soon, performing business under these circumstances would only cause trouble for the customers, so it was decided to halt operations during the renovation.

“During this period of time, the staff would temporarily be sent to the nearby stores as “assistance”..... if you have realized this earlier, I would have introduced you to stores which are closer.”

Kisaki shrugged in a troubled manner.

On the list Kisaki passed to Maou were stores that needed temporary help, however they were either quite some distance away from Shibuya, or were unable to provide a large number of shifts. Because it was the summer holidays, every branch store had adequate manpower because of the employment of temporary student workers.

Even since Maou became the shift manager, Kisaki and him saw each other less often.

This was also one of the factors causing this tragedy.

“Because the suspension of operations is due to the company, so the employees’ jobs are still under protection. But for the problem this time, you are also to blame for not confirming important matters. Even though I admire your talent, and hope that you would be able to work in a better environment, this is the best I can do for you.”

Kisaki stood up and placed her hand on Maou’s shoulder.

“If you decide to go to these branch stores to assist, contact them before tomorrow evening.”

Maou felt that his surroundings had turned dark.

After shakily walking out of the staff room, Chiho approached him with a concerned look on her face.

“You really didn’t realize it at all?”

“Ah, yeah. Chi, Chi-chan will also assist other stores?”

“I’ll be taking a break until the renovation is finished. . . . but, I’m sorry!”

Chiho suddenly bowed, giving Maou a shock.

“I decreased my shifts a lot because of club activities..... Maou-san was busy taking care of Alas=Ramus-chan’s affairs..... if I had mentioned this to you, you might have realized it.”

It seemed as if Chiho felt a strange feeling of guilt over Maou’s mistake, and looked at Maou with an expression like she was going to cry.

“No no no, it’s not Chiho’s fault. As for being busy, Alas=Ramus is with Emi right now, so I’m to blame for being too careless. Haha, right now I won’t be able to exaggeratedly say that I will switch my attitude.”

As Chiho was not at fault at all, Maou quickly shook his head and replied.

“Even though the conditions aren’t as good, it’s not as if I can’t work at all, I will discuss this with Ashiya after I go back. Sorry for worrying you like this.”

“Maou-san.....”

Maou suddenly remembered something, and asked Chiho a question to change the atmosphere,

“That’s right, Chi-chan. Would you be able to come to my house today?”

“Eh?”

Chiho was confused by the sudden invitation.

“In the morning, I heard Suzuno say that Emi would come over for dinner. You should come and see Alas=Ramus, that child really wants to see Chi-chan. Even though Emi is alright with anything, food will be nicer when eaten with more people, so.....”

Maou patted Chiho’s shoulder gently.

“About this, I’m alright, so cheer up, okay?”

“Yea, yeah.....”

Chiho nodded lightly with a slight blush on her face.

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“Yo, I’m back.”

“Ex, excuse me.”

As Maou left the house early in the morning to work, he was home at 7pm. Even though the sky had not turned dark, lights shone from the houses they passed on the way back because of dinner preparations.

“Papa!”

After returning to the rental apartment housing the Demon Fortress—the sixty year old “Villa Rosa Sasazuka”, the one that greeted Maou and Chiho was the angelic smile of Alas=Ramus, enough to heal Maou’s tired mind and body, a result from the mistake at work.

“It’s Chi-nee chan!”

Alas=Ramus, who ran towards Maou from the other side of the low table, ingeniously turned, changing her direction midway to run into Chiho.

“Alas=Ramus-chan! Hello!”

Chiho gracefully scooped up Alas=Ramus, who had been running at full speed. As for Maou, maintaining the pose as he prepared to catch Alas=Ramus, bowed his head dejectedly. Seeing this situation, Alas=Ramus’s ‘Mama’ and the main enemy of the Demon Fortress, Emi, who looked as if she had just got off work, said with a wry smile,

“Alas=Ramus made a right choice.”

“Noisy, shut up, how depressing. Hey, Alas=Ramus, I’m here too?”

“Chi-nee chan!”

Alas=Ramus did not acknowledge him.

“Welcome back, Demon King-sama. Please use this wet towel.”

Ashiya, who treated serving the Demon King as his duty, considerately took out a wet towel which had been warmed in the microwave. Maou wiped off the sweat which resulted from the walk home and pressed his eyes to chase away the fatigue.

“Ah---how comfortable!”

“Sasaki-san, welcome. Please take a seat.”

The considerate Ashiya also passed a wet towel to Chiho, and let Chiho, who was carrying Alas=Ramus, sit at a corner of the low table.

“I’m sorry for suddenly disturbing everyone like this.”

Chiho made eye contact with Ashiya and Emi in greeting.

“Even though I shouldn’t be the one saying this, but it’s alright. Alas=Ramus is happy as well.”

“If it’s Chiho-dono, I welcome you anytime. However--”

A stern sounding female voice came from the opposite direction from Ashiya.

The person placed Chiho’s chopsticks and bowl on the table, while glaring at the much taller Maou and Ashiya with a displeased look on her face.

“About the action of taking out the wet towel like it was the most natural thing to do, I already have nothing much to say. However, please don’t wipe your face and neck while moaning, think about your dignity as the Demon King.”

Wearing an apron and a triangular bandana, the female who gave Maou the warning was Kamazuki Suzuno. She was a cleric from the Church of Ente Isla who lived next to the Demon Fortress. At the same time, she was also definitely Maou’s enemy.

“Given the current circumstances, it’s not much use even if I act dignified in front of all of you.”

Maou, who replied Suzuno in an unmotivated manner, passed the wet towel back to Ashiya. Suzuno sighed and returned to the kitchen, stirring the pot of miso soup.

“If you say that, Alas=Ramus will copy you, you know?”

Suzuno had barely finished when---

“Ah, you can’t, Alas=Ramus-chan, this is used to wipe your hands.”

Chiho’s frantic voice was heard. Upon closer inspection, Alas=Ramus actually took away the wet towel which Ashiya passed to Chiho and started to wipe herself, copying Maou’s movements.



“Ah~~ how comfortable!”

“Alas=Ramus! Don’t copy that old man like behavior! And that belongs to Chiho onee-san, okay.”

Emi took the towel away from the happily imitating Alas=Ramus.

“Come, Alas=Ramus-chan, let me help you clean your hands.”

Chiho took the towel from Emi and gently helped Alas=Ramus, who was sitting on her lap, wipe her hands.

“Hmph.”

Suzuno showed a mocking smile which seemed to say “I told you so.” As for the unhappy looking Maou, he awkwardly turned towards Ashiya to ask him a completely unrelated question, trying to avoid the topic.

“Ah, that, what about Urushihara?”

“He should still be on the computer. Because Bell does not allow him to use the computer in this room, he should be at the Demon Fortress?”

Ashiya’s face turned stony for a different reason from Maou.

“Of course. If that idiot is left alone, he would probably sit in front of the computer all day. Not caring about the small things like electricity bills, that person really is an eye sore.”

Suzuno complained unhappily as she carried the plates.

That's right, even though he returned to Villa Rosa Sasazuka, Maou was not that the 201 room, Demon Fortress.

He was at the neighbouring 202 room, which was the room of Kamazuki Suzuno.

During the battle with Gabriel, a hole so big that it was amazing that no one called the police, appeared in the Demon Fortress.

Even if the Demon King and the rest bought a few tarpaulin sheets used to cover bicycles from the Hypermarket, and blocked the hole using things they have gathered as an emergency fix, it cannot be left alone forever.

At their wits end, the group went to find the house contractor who was unable to help with the installation of the air-conditioner, but the other party replied simply, saying that he will try to contact the landlady Shiba, and up till today, that hole still existed.

Even though the electrical wires, gas and water pipes did not look damaged, but this was still an ancient 60 year old building.

Perhaps the impact which caused the hole has resulted in hidden dangers in places they cannot see, and it was difficult to know if a specific action will cause a second disaster.

As it would be even harder to clean up if another accident occurs, Maou and the great demons from a foreign world, will disturb the cleric next door during meals and when large amounts of electricity needed to be used.

From this angle, Urushihara, who continued to use the computer, was the most unsettling factor to the Demon King and Suzuno.

In a stroke of good luck, ever since the hole appeared in the Demon Fortress, it had not rained at all.

However, this could not go on forever. While thinking about confirming with the landlady about the situation, he sat down next to Chiho.

“Papa!”

Alas=Ramus, who was sitting in Chiho’s lap, tried her best to stretch her small hands towards Maou.

Just seeing that smile was enough to chase away the fatigue and troubles which Maou accumulated the whole day.

“Okay, then, you can go to Papa... is that alright?”

Chiho realized that Maou had already reached the limit of his patience, and let Alas=Ramus sit on the lap of her ‘Papa’. Of course she did not forget to check with Emi first, and Emi had reluctantly agreed.

Basically, Emi was also soft hearted towards Alas=Ramus.

Once Alas=Ramus sat on Maou’s lap, she grabbed the chopsticks in front of her with both hands and started to randomly hit the table with them.

“Hey, Alas=Ramus, don’t do that. You should be more polite.”

“Uu~”

When Alas=Ramus was warned by Maou and Emi, even though she was reluctant, she would still listen obediently.

The young girl unhappily put the chopsticks back to their original position—even so, the positions of the chopsticks were reversed—Maou smiled and patted her head.

“Great, good girl. Before Suzu-nee san brings the rice over, wait obediently, okay?”

“Yeah!”

“..... I don’t know why, but once I was referred to as ‘Suzu-nee san’ by you, I get goosebumps.”

Suzuno, wearing an apron while serving rice to everyone, stopped her movements and said this with a frown in a volume loud enough for Maou to hear.

“Yes yes yes, I’m sorry about that.”

“Ye ye ye!”

Alas=Ramus imitated Maou’s tone of voice because she thought it was interesting. At this, Emi and Suzuno glared at Maou once again.

Maou, who would become very honest when it came to matters concerning Alas=Ramus, quietly rearranged the chopsticks back to their correct positions while thinking of his future plans.

Even though he needed to discuss about the household finances with Ashiya, whether he decides to go to the branches which Kisaki referred him to or

think of other solutions, Emi would know about this sooner or later, however Maou thought that there was no need to intentionally reveal his weak point to the other party.

If he did it now, it was possible that Emi would happily tell Alas=Ramus, “Papa lost his job” or something similar. If Alas=Ramus started to see him as an unemployed person, then Maou would not be able to live on.

“Hey Alsiel. Tell Lucifer to come over, if not it would be very troublesome if he starts complaining later. Tell him that if he doesn’t come immediately, he won’t get any dinner.”

When she was almost done with the dinner preparations, Suzuno said this while taking off her apron.

“…… Alright.”

Even though the demon Alsiel and the human Suzuno basically have a hostile relationship, as the two of them have started cooking together more frequently, when it comes to household chores and matters concerning Urushihara, the two of them seem to be able to understand each other.

Ashiya replied Suzuno with an expressionless tone, and after removing his apron and folding it beautifully, he temporarily left the room.

“You even have to make dinner for that kind of guy, it must be hard on you.”

“The Demon King is paying for it anyway. In addition, compared to cooking a one person portion for every meal, I can save a lot on groceries and it is also easier to think of what to cook.”

Suzuno replied while taking off her bandana. To such a reply, Emi said with a straight face,

“If you continue saying things like this, you would be slowly pulled over to their side, you have to be more careful.....”

“?”

Even though Suzuno did not understand, she chose not to continue the topic and sat next to Emi, opposite Maou, with her back straight.

“Papa. Is it ready yet? Is dinner ready yet?”

“Yeah, good girl, can you wait a while more? We’ll start dinner when everyone is here.”

“Lucifer, hurry up!”

It looked like Alas=Ramus knew very well who the culprit was.

Emi tried her best not to pay attention to Maou, and asked Suzuno while keeping an eye on Alas=Ramus,

“Then again, you still have quite a few pieces of large furniture here, how do you plan to deal with them?”

“Ah, because the situation is special this time, the apartment agent helped me by introducing a storage place with no extra charge. I decided to send everything over tomorrow.”

“How about the things inside the fridge?”

“I finished everything in one go today.”

“Oh, that explains why the dinner today is so rich. You bought the fridge not that long ago, and you already decided to get rid of the fridge?”

Following the conversation of the two people, Maou took another look at the dinner table.

On the table, there was a large plate of fried green vegetables with onions, tomatoes, tofu and miso soup with seaweed. Besides that, there's also karaage, fried meat patties, siew mai, tempura and salad.

For Suzuno, who placed great emphasis on the outer appearance of the dishes, a menu which looks like the entire fridge was cleaned out was a rare occurrence.

Even with the help of an additional person Chiho, it might still be difficult to finish such a quantity.

Emi and Suzuno frowned because of Maou's question.

“What are you talking about?”

“Actually talking like it doesn't concern you. In fact, are you guys alright? Have you put all your furniture in order?”

“Eh? What do you mean?”

Maou asked in return, confused.

Emi and Suzuno looked at each other suspiciously. Immediately after, Maou felt something cold on his back.

“Wah! Cold!”

It wasn't an illusion. Alas=Ramus, who had left Maou's lap without him noticing, was hugging an ice cold bottle of mineral water and pressing it to Maou's back.

“Alas=Ramus-chan, it'll be wet that way, can you pass me the bottle?”

“Nu uh, no!”

Chiho gently started to battle with Alas=Ramus, who was determined not to hand over the PET bottle, Suzuno continued to speak,

“From tomorrow, all of you and I would need to leave the apartment temporarily.”

“Hey, Alas=Ramus, listen to Chi-nee san! Leave the apartment huh..... what, what did you just say?”

Maou instantly became alert, but immediately lost all colour in his face, and looked towards Suzuno with a pale face.

“Leave, this apartment?”

“.....Hey, Demon King, don't tell me.....”

Suzuno slowly took out a familiar looking envelope from the front of her kimono.

It was an envelope with a luxurious gold stitching, which felt like silk to the touch.

“After you went to see the apartment agent, this letter arrived! It’s a notification from the landlady.”

“Ah?”

Maou was so shocked that it felt like his jaw will hit the ground. Alas=Ramus almost dropped the PET bottle she was holding because of his voice.

“Papa, don’t scare me! Seriously!”

However, not even Alas=Ramus’s voice can reach Maou now.

Maou seemed to have snatched the letter from Suzuno’s hands, and as he guarded against the photo, he slowly took out the contents.

Knowing the landlady, it was rare to just have a notification on a piece of printed paper. It was densely packed with words and looked like a contract.

“To the tenants at Villa Rosa.”

From the date, it was a notification from two weeks ago, it started with this sentence, and Maou, who continued reading—

“Please, this isn’t real.....”

This time, Maou really felt the world was spinning and fainted.

“Ma, Maou-san?”

“Hey, you’ll hit your head this way, it’s dangerous!”

“Papa?”

“What sound was that just now.... ... De, Demon King-sama?”

“I’m hungry. Ah, Sasaki Chiho came as well. Wah! The spread today is really sumptuous.”

Ashiya, who had returned, saw that his master had fainted and rushed over frantically. As for Urushihara, he was acting at his own pace the whole time.

“Alsiel, Papa fell asleep after seeing this.”

Alas=Ramus passed the paper she picked up to Ashiya.

“Thank you, Alas=Ramus. Hm? It’s addressed to Bell, it’s a notification from the landlady.....”

Emi and Suzuno didn’t even have time to stop it—

“..... Fu.”

Ashiya, who skimmed through the contents, collapsed like he had stopped breathing.

“Hm? What’s wrong with Maou and Ashiya?”

Emi, Chiho and Suzuno looked towards Urushihara with cold gazes, who did not help at all and was late, and stuffed his mouth with karaage without even saying “Itadakimasu.”

Suzuno took the document from Ashiya’s hands and opened it in front of Urushihara.

“Read this carefully, you walking bad debt.”

“Uh..... what, what’s up.....Eh? To all tenants?”

Urushihara read through the article while chewing his food.

“Regarding the compensation for the residents for the temporary relocation in order to facilitate the renovation of the apartment complex.....residents temporarily relocating? What is this supposed to mean?”

This time, even Urushihara got a shock, and put down his chopsticks, continuing to read the document.

Simply put, the request which Maou raised to the apartment agent two weeks ago had reached the landlady.

As the hole in the 201 room was too big, if the hole was simply patched up, it would still raise fears about the structural integrity of the building.

It was also partially because of the aging gas and water pipes as well as the electrical system, which caused people to worry if any fault will occur, so it was decided that the entire building will undergo a thorough renovation.

“.....Eh, but, I didn’t not hear about this at all.....”

“I thought so. If Maou and Ashiya had become like this, it would be strange if you knew.”

“Bell will stay at my house until the renovation is done, do you guys have any plans?”

In response to the question from Suzuno and Emi, Urushihara could only helplessly shake his head, and looked blankly at Emi.

“Even if I stayed in a big house large enough to house three generations, do you think I would readily invite all of you to stay?”

“That’s true.....”

It looked like even Urushihara had no plans to push his request.

Alas=Ramus, who did not understand what the adults were talking about, ignored Urushihara, who gave a sigh, and shakily walked towards the two men lying on the floor.

“What’s wrong with Papa and Alsiel?”

“Uh, that, they should be asleep. Ne, ne, Alas=Ramus-chan, go wake them up.”

Chiho, being the only one present who knew about Maou’s situation at work and treated the situation as her own problem, was shaken when she knew that Maou might also lose his place to live.

“Okay, Papa, Alsiel, get up, it’s time to eat.”

After being shaken by Alas=Ramus’s small hand, Maou and Alsiel woke up with vacant looks on their faces, like they had just woken up from a vivid dream.

“..... It’s felt like I was daydreaming.”

“..... Me too. No..... it should be, called a nightmare.”

The Demon King and the Demon General, who did not run from reality even after losing to the Hero in the final battle, actually chose to run away at this moment.

“Ah, that’s right, Ashiya.”

“Yes, what is it?”

Maou, blearily-eyed, said in a daze,

“It seems like I will lose my job starting from tomorrow, what do you think I should do.”

““““““.....””””””

“Los ob?”

Alas=Ramus, learning to speak, repeated what Maou said in suffocating silence.

“Fu.....!”

Ashiya let out another sigh which sounded like a balloon leaking air and lost consciousness at the same time.

“Wah--! Ashiya-san! The colour of Ashiya-san’s face!”

“Oi, this face colour is serious! Bell! Water! Get water, quickly!”

“Mama, mineral water!”

“Good Alas=Ramus! Lend this to me!”

“Uh, is this the analeptic? No, before that, should a heart massage be conducted first?”

“.....What’s wrong with Ashiya?”

Only Maou did not realize how powerful the effect of the bomb that he had thrown was.

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“.....”

“.....”

“.....”

There was only a slight wind coming in from a crack in the entire Demon Fortress, the three demons sat in a circle around a small package and looked at each other with serious looks on their faces.

A package about the size of a letter envelope, sealed using layers of tape and raffia rope for unknown reasons, with a messy scrawl of “Unsealing Banned” written on it.

“What are you guys doing, just open it quickly.”

Emi, who couldn’t take it anymore, chided the males who did not move at all.

“Given, given the situation now, even if we look at it, it would also..... right.”

“Yeah.”

“That’s true.....”

Emi, who did not have a lot of patience, pushed away the hesitating demons. After roughly grabbing the package, she started tearing at it.

“Wahhhhhh! What are you doing!”

“You’re noisy! Stop delaying the troublesome things, open it already!”

“Yo, you! You’ll regret it later!”

“Noooo!”

Emi ignored the exaggerated reactions of the inhabitants of the Demon Fortress and opened the package—

“.....Wha, what is this? A tape?”

After that she found a home video tape with any labels on it.

“You, you, it must be a cursed tape!”

Maou grabbed his head and shouted.

“The, there must be fear, fearsome footage inside!”

Ashiya plastered himself against the wall, his face blue.

“Just the photo has such destructive power, it’ll be unimaginable with a video!”

“..... What are you guys talking about..... then again, this is sent by the landlady, right? Why do you have to seal it so tightly?”

“Thi, think about it, this is a tape sent by the landlady, isn’t it? You have seen her before, right?”

“So what? Stop saying these strange things and check the contents.”

Not long after Maou consulted the apartment agent, the Demon Fortress also received a package sent by the landlady.

Compared to the luxurious envelopes normally sent by the landlady, Maou and the rest estimated that nothing important would be contained in the package. As they were worried that it might contain mysterious local products or something on par with “that photo”, they were already on their guard.

As Suzuno lectured Maou and the others, “What if there is an important notice inside”, they finally decided to open the package.

However, there was no letter, instructions or label, just a fully black tape. The inhabitants of the Demon Fortress, faced with “the incident of photos of the landlady in a swimsuit”, which caused heavy casualties, who could blame them for not wanting to play the tape because of a bad feeling they had?

Basically, even if the landlady did send the tape over, there was no equipment within the Demon Fortress which can play it.

In the end, they decided that it was more sensible to not watch it and seal it immediately and stuffed the tape into the deepest part of the storage closet in the corner of the room, securely sealing it. However, to the inhabitants of the Demon Fortress, this tape could be the last hope for changing their current situation.

But the mental trauma caused by ‘that photo’ still cast a terrifying shadow in the demons’ hearts.

“It can’t be helped, if so, we can only release ‘that photo’ and let the Hero see it for herself!”

“Ple, please don’t do that, Demon King-sama! ‘That photo’ is a taboo which the Demon King cannot awaken! Even the gods cannot touch that absolute seal!”

“Shut up! If I can’t use it now, then when can I use it?!”

“Ahh! My, my memories, the memories of ‘that photo’ are eroding me! The world is doomed!”

“The Demon Fortress is going to collapse! Demon King-sama! Please stop!”

As an outsider, Emi totally ignored Maou and the others who became very worked up because of ‘that photo’ and rested her gaze on Urushihara’s laptop.

“We should be able to watch the contents of the tape if we buy a cheap tape player.”

Even though it is now the golden time for DVD and BD, it is still possible to buy equipment which digitize information from old media from home electronics hypermarts.

Of course, Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara knew about this. However, they thought that if it's just to unseal that ominous seal, there is really no need to intentionally do something equivalent to throwing money into a drain.

“Hey, Emi, it looks like there is no way to watch the tape right now, erhm, we can solve our problems on our own, so forget about this tape!”

Just as Emi kicked away the continually pestering Maou with a stiff smile on her face—

“Emilia, it’s quite noisy over at your end, is the matter solved?”

Suzuno, who was carrying Alas=Ramus, walked over from next door to investigate the situation, Emi replied her with a shake of her head.

Emi pointed to the panicked three demons with her thumb, shrugging, and after showing Suzuno the tape, she briefly explained the situation.

After that—

“Erhm..... in this case.....”

Chiho, who was standing beside Suzuno, said cautiously,

“I have a tape player at my place.....why don’t we go to my house to watch?”

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“I, I’m back, Mu.....wah!”

“Oh my, oh my, welcome! Ah, you must be Maou-san!”

Chiho had only just opened the door at the entrance, before she was almost blown away by a sharp and clear voice.

Maou talked to this voice on the phone before. Chiho mama, which looked around 40 plus years old -- -- Sasaki Riho, already put on her makeup and was dressed neatly to wait for Maou and the others.

“Ex, excuse me. I’m sorry for disturbing you at such a late hour.”

Even though Maou was sweating heavily due to nervousness, and he still bowed cautiously.

“Nice to meet you, I’m Yusa Emi.”

Emi, standing behind Maou, did not say much, and only briefly introduced herself.

“Uh.....here is a small gift for you.....Chiho-san has always been looking out for us.....”

Maou, who stuttered out socially polite sentences which he was not used to, handed over the cake meant as a meeting gift, which Ashiya wanted him to bring along, to Riho.

“Oh my, thank you so much, taking the trouble. Alright, please come in, it must be hard on you this time. Ah, let me go make tea, please go to the living room first—Chiho, please guide the guests!”

Under the prompts of the mother, who was so excited that it felt like a theatre performance was going to start, Chiho nodded with a stiff expression.

“Er, erhm, Maou-san, Yusa-san, please come this way.”

“Ex, excuse me.”

“Sorry for the trouble.”

Between Sasazuka station and Koshu Kaido, in a residential area in the opposite direction from the Demon Fortress, was a normal looking standalone building. That is the Sasaki home.

In order to check the contents of the tape as soon as possible, there was no other choice in the current situation. But no matter what, the inhabitants of the Demon Fortress have been looked after by the Sasaki family when it comes to food related matters.

Ashiya frantically went out on Durandal II and finally managed to buy a high class cake. However, if they did something impolite to Chiho's family members, it might betray the trust which Chiho harbored, so Maou really spared no effort.

In addition, Emi even followed them in order to watch him.

Logically, Ashiya should be the one to visit, but Emi was worried that if these two people left together, they might secretly get rid of the tape.

As a group of people coming over at the same time would cause some inconvenience to the Sasaki family, so except for Maou and Emi, the rest of them are staying at Villa Rosa to take care of Alas=Ramus and wait for good news from Maou and the others.

Even though Emi always cursed the demon forces in a nonchalant manner, and did not care about their life or death, for an unknown reason, she was actually sincerely helping Maou and the rest solve their problem.

“Mum..... is too excited.”

Once Chiho entered the living room, she lowered her head, sapped of energy.

The living room, cleaned until it was free of dust not only had a brand new table cloth on the table, there was even a vase containing various types of flowers.

Perhaps it was because scented candles were burnt or air fresheners were used, there was a slight flower smell in the living room.

Even the seat cushions were obviously changed into thick cushions which were not used on a normal basis, making Chiho, the original resident, feel awkward. As for Maou and Emi, they only understood that they were very welcome.

“Er, erhm, I’m sorry, uh, please take a seat. Ah, Maou-san, the tape.....”

After Chiho, who sounded like she ran out of energy, took the tape from Maou, she knelt down in front of the LCD television on top of a television stand in the corner of the living room.

Maou and Emi looked at each other while sitting down nervously. Underneath them, the new seat cushion crackled.

“Come come come, I prepared some chilled red tea.”

Once again, Riho entered the room in high spirits. Maou and Emi cowered a little in shock, but Riho did not mind at all, gracefully placing the chilled red tea, which gave off a slight fragrance, in front of Maou and the rest.

“Thank you..... this smells nice, isn’t this flower tea, is this rose hip tea?”

Emi asked this after taking a sip, Riho’s eyes shined at that moment.

“Expected of a member of society, to know a bit about this! Thank you so much for taking care of Chiho, I hear about you from her a lot. Seriously, Chiho and my husband are the same, they don’t care about red tea at all.”

“Yea, yeah.....”

“Mu, mum! It’s fine if you stop at that!”

After setting the tape and the television, Chiho, blushing, wanted to chase her mother out of the living room, but Riho ignored this.

“Before chasing me away, you should quickly play that tape! Perhaps the contents will have something to do with Maou-san’s family!”

After saying this, Riho sat down on the opposite side of Maou and Emi. Even though Chiho had explained the bare minimum of the situation to Riho with regards to borrowing the tape player belonging to the Sasaki family, Maou

was worried that the landlady would say strange things, or that Chiho and Riho would be unable to maintain a normal mindset after seeing the landlady.

“Seriously.....! I’m sorry, Maou-san, can I play it now?”

“Ah, yeah, please do.”

At this point, Maou cannot just ask Riho to leave, so he could only watch Chiho press the Play button, full of worries.

Chiho awkwardly sat down next to her mother and turned her line of sight to the television monitor. A black screen was displayed for a moment before a video was shown----

Blue skies, gold coloured land, and the pyramid on top of it. After one hundred people see this, those hundred people will definitely reply that this background is at Egypt.

“Ah~~ ah~~ cough.”

The landlady’s voice sounded like she was testing the microphone. Maou subconsciously clenched his fists because of the terror he felt.

“Erhm, Maou-san and Ashiya-san, it’s been a while. I, Shiba, am going to explain things in front of the Giza Pyramids in Egypt.”

The landlady was standing in the middle of a sunny desert.

She was wearing a figure fitting dress which looked like it was about to burst at the seams, while showing her legs, with a dress hat which was useless at blocking out the sun. Just seeing the revealed limbs of Shiba Miki was enough to make Maou blue in the face, and cause his heart to beat faster.

Even so, the destructive power this time is a lot less compared to the swimsuit photo, and he could still keep his eyes on the screen, though barely. It seems like Maou did improve with regards to this.

What is even more surprising is that compared to Maou, who was sweating in nervousness, the other three people did not have any special reaction, and nonchalantly watched the life threatening video of the landlady.

“I was contacted during my holiday, I never expected that Maou-san and the others will encounter such a tragedy, I feel very sorry as the landlady.”

Even though the landlady did not have to take responsibility for the hole appearing in the room, but because of the full cleavage that she showed when she bowed deeply, Maou strongly felt that she should apologise for the curse burnt into his soul.

“Luckily, Maou-san and Ashiya-san were not injured. With regards to the apartment renovation, I will take responsibility as the landlady, please do not worry. The rent will not be affected at the same time as well. Due to the renovation dates and the amount of work and the thorough renovation may

need to be done, so I'm afraid that everyone would need to move out for a while.....”

The landlady explained this professionally, and the contents were the same as the notification letter which Suzuno had received.

Rather than that, it was harder to explain why the landlady would use such a troublesome method to notify the Demon Fortress. If she used a letter notification like the one she sent to Suzuno, Maou and the rest would find out about this a lot earlier.

Just as Maou was finally getting used to this shocking footage, and felt unsatisfied inside his heart-----

“In addition, there is another matter which I would like to trouble Maou-san and Aishiya-san.”

After talking about the renovation period of the apartment, the landlady continued to speak.

“Actually, I have a niece.”

Maou and Emi looked at each other in reflex.

The landlady's...niece? The two of them never thought that this landlady will have parents, siblings, nephews or nieces, or other normal family members, so they were quite shocked when they heard this.

“This niece is currently operating a beach house at a beach in Chiba.”

Talking about the landlady and beaches, Maou remembered that “Swimsuit photo incident”. Just as Maou thought that this tape will finally show its fangs and wanted to press the stop button on the tape player-----

“If it's convenient for you, can all of you go to my niece's store to help out?”

He stopped in his tracks because of this sentence.

“That store is situated at a beach in southeast Chiba. Taking into account the location and the renovation of the apartment, accommodation will most likely be provided, so there's no need to commute. As my niece's family have other things to handle, so this will probably last from the beginning of August until after the Obon holiday, what do you think about it?”

From the beginning of August until after the Obon holiday, and the job even provides accommodation?

For a job like this to suddenly appear at this time, could it be a joke? Is it something which would push them to the depths after making them happy, or a kind of prank segment?

“Southeast of Chiba..... is it Choshi?”

Chiho mumbled to herself softly, like she wanted to confirm her memory.

“If there are guys around, it would be more assuring in case something sudden occurs. Of course, you have your own job to handle, so I will not force you on this. However if it is convenient, please think about it. If you’re willing to take this job, please call this number.....”

The landlady pointed at the bottom of the video, and took the effort to type subtitles which looks like a phone number. Maou stared blankly at the numbers on the video for a long time----

“Ma..... Maou, isn’t that great? Make the call quickly!”

(T/N: Emi was about to say Maou as in Demon King, but switched to Maou, his Japanese last name.)

After that he was slapped very hard on the back by someone, causing him to cough very hard.

“Cou, cough! E, Emi, what are you doing?”

“This tape was sent over quite some time ago, right? Make the call quickly. If this job is taken by someone else, you’ll end up losing out!”

“Eh, bu, but Yusa-san, since it’s a beach house in Chiba, that means it’s really far away from here.....”

Chiho, who was shocked by Emi’s reaction, did not even finish her sentence before she was interrupted by her mother beside her.

“That’s right, Maou-san! Isn’t that great? In this way, you can solve the issues with your accommodation and job! It’s fine if you make the call here, make the call quickly!”

As an older person, it was expected for Riho to react that way. On the other hand, for Emi to feel happy about Maou’s situation getting better, it was really strange.

Even though Maou felt apprehensive about the development of the situation and Emi’s attitude, but he still entered the numbers on the screen into his mobile phone and raised a hand to ask the surrounding people to be quiet.

As he was still making a call in someone else’s home, Maou first acknowledged Riho with his eyes, and pressed the ‘Call’ button after taking a deep breath.

Maou did not feel optimistic about the situation like Emi and Riho. After all, this timing is too coincidental.

Basically, this is a beach house run by a relative of “that landlady”. Maou did not know what kind of demon lair that place would be, and did not know what kind of destiny awaits him. If he had worked in a MgRonalds further away, it might not be as stressful on his mental state.

Chiho, who watched Maou with worry, seemed to think that Emi’s reaction is strange and took occasional glances to check on her.

Maou waited for the other party to pick up, his face full of nervousness, after a few rings-----

“Hello?”

A simple answer was heard from the other end of the line, it was a female voice.

As it is a niece, this result is to be expected, but for Maou, who was fully prepared as he was worried that a Youkai would appear, he was a little shocked by the normal human voice.

“He, hello. I’m sorry, calling at such a late time.”

“Yeah.”

“Erhm, Shiba-san introduced me to a job with regards to a beach house, and wanted me to call.....”

Maou had just said this when the other party said with such a loud volume that Maou wanted to pull the phone away from his ear,

“Shiba-san..... ah! Are you the tenant from the Tokyo apartment of Aunt Mi-chan?”

“Mi-chan..... ah, that’s right. My name is Maou.”

Thinking back, the landlady did ask other people to address her as Mi-chan before. Emi remembered that she was asked to do so before.

“That’s right, that’s right, I heard about it! Because I didn’t receive any contact and July is going to end soon, so I thought it was inconvenient for you, and was about to give up!”

The female voice on the other end of the line gave others a cheerful impression.

From the tone of her voice, the other party should be older than Emi or Suzuno, but did not have the unreadable mysterious aura like the landlady.

“Erhm, that’s because something went wrong with the communication.....”

Even if his mouth was cracked open, Maou could not say that the tape was sealed until today because he feared watching it.

“Ah! I can understand! Aunt frequently travels overseas after all. Even the new year card will only arrive in February.”

“I, I see.”

For it to be this way even for relatives, by comparison, the fact that the notification can reach Maou and Suzuno so quickly is a miracle.

Just as Maou was thinking about this, the other party suddenly threw out a topic.

“So, you’re Maou-san right? Can you come over?”

The other party seemed like a hasty type. Maou, who almost answered out of reflex, quickly stopped himself.

A beach house run by one person, this type of workplace was an unknown world to Maou.

If he did not confirm the scope and conditions of the job, he cannot decide if he was able take up this task. Even though the other party is the landlady's niece, Maou did not even know her name.

“Know one's strength and the enemy to secure victory”, this was the philosophy Maou believed in when he first aimed to unify the demon world.

“I'm sorry, currently I only heard that it is a ‘beach house in Chiba’.....”

Maou chose his words carefully, leading the other party to mention the conditions, the other end of the line nodded and answered,

“Ah! Aunt is rather lax in this area after all.”

The landlady's niece continued to speak with a voice which did not sound that delicate,

“The location is at the corner of Choshi, Chiba..... do you know where Kimigahama is?”

“No.....”

At this time, Riho passed a notepad and a pen to Maou. Maou thanked her with his eyes, and accepted the pen.

Maou quickly wrote the words “Choshi” on the paper. Seeing this, Chiho sucked in a breath.

“That’s true. As a location, Cape Inubo or Toyama would be more well-known. Excluding the outlying islands and the mountains, Kimigahama is the coast in Kanto which you can see the earliest sunrise.”

“Uh....”

No matter what, these are names which Maou were not familiar with. The other party seemed to sense this from Maou’s tone of voice.

“Sigh, you can just treat it as the east of Chiba. Even though it’s quite some distance from the city center.”

The topic of the workplace location ended without any detailed explanations.

However, it was no use even if he felt dissatisfied, so Maou could only note down the name of the place he didn’t know about and continued to listen.

“In addition, this is hard to say, but the salary here isn’t high. A hourly pay for one person is only about 1000 yen.”

“1000 yen per person?”

Maou was a little shocked because of the unexpected amount. However, since it's an hourly pay per person, this means that more than one person is allowed to go.

As long as Maou and Ashiya worked together, they would be able to earn two hours of income for the whole Demon Fortress in one hour.

“Oh my, because this store is opened partly because of my father’s interest, so it wasn’t meant to make a profit. In addition, it’s really busy during this period, so I’m really troubled about it. Also, there is also free accommodation and food, and from the end of work till the day turns dark, you can swim until you’re satisfied!”

A job with an hourly pay of 1000 yen, and it even comes with accommodation and food. Even though swimming is good, but for Maou right now, these were ideal conditions.

“May I know how many people can go over?”

In some sense, this question was considered a gamble. Right now, there are not two, but three inhabitants in the Demon Fortress.

And the third person is Urushihara, a Neet to the core.

From the way the landlady put it, it seems like it was decided beforehand that Ashiya, who is living together with Maou, will go along as well. However, if

it is now three people, the staff costs might cause a burden to the shop which ‘wasn’t meant to make a profit’.

Moreover, even if he proposed his choice of people, it was hard to guarantee that the third person will work seriously.

But the answer of the other party was something Maou did not expect.

“What is it, can you find more people to come?”

“Eh? Erhm, that, that is, including me and my roommates, there are three guys.”

“Eh? Three people?”

“Eh? Three people?”

Chiho and Emi exclaimed in surprise at the same time, but Maou ignored them.

“Not much will be earned regardless of the number of people, you can all come over! Because it’s seems to be very tiring in various aspects, it’s alright to work in shifts.”

From this sentence, it seems like the other party had seen through the situation on this end.

Even though he didn't know what kind of job it is, but it should be alright to let Urushihara take charge of the short and easy portion. After that, everything will be fine as long as Maou and Ashiya worked their best till the end. If Urushihara could develop a slight motivation in working because of this, it could be seen as an unexpected benefit.

“..... Can I trouble you by having three people come over together?”

After Maou said this, laughter was heard from the other end of the line. Chiho, on the other side of the table, showed signs of nervousness at this.

“Yeah. So, when can all of you come over?”

“As there are some things we have to settle tomorrow, so I am planning to come over on the day after tomorrow, August 1st.”

“Wah, then I have to quickly prepare the rooms. However, it is better if you can come earlier. According to my father, the number of people will officially increase from August, really, thank you so much!”

From the beginning, Maou felt concerned, with things such as “seems to be” very tiring, or “according to my father”, the number of people will increase

from August. For some reason, these explanations felt as if they were heard from someone else.

After asking about this-----

“Oh my, I think I mentioned this earlier, this store was originally managed by my father, even though I helped out before, this summer holiday he suddenly said he wanted to travel, and pushed everything to me. Formally, I’m supposed to take over, but I also have my own work, as a girl, it’s hard for me to handle this alone. As my father never intended to make a profit, he did not teach me how to run a business. In the end, I’m still a young and energetic girl, so there are risks in that aspect.”

To be specific, until what age would it be appropriate to be known as young and energetic, what kind of risks are there, would it be fine to conduct business like this etc, Maou forcefully swallowed these questions.

About this, since it is someone Aunt Mi-chan introduced, then I can rest easy. I’ll leave it to you guys then.”

“It’s, it’s fine..... then again, how should we go over?”

“Ah, I need to tell you the location. Are you driving? Or taking the train? Or taking the plane?”

“Pla, plane? Uh, we will take the train.”

No matter where they are going, the mode of transport for Maou and the others is limited to mass transport.

“The journey is rather long, you know? If you depart from the city center, you can first take the Sobu line to the terminal station to Chiba, then take the JR’s Sobu Main line to the terminal station, that would be Choshi. After that, take the Choshi Electric Railway, and get off at the station before the terminal station, Inubo station. Even though you will pass through the station called Kimigahama, our shop is closer to Inubo. It takes about three hours to get here from the city centre, but all of you can treat it as a holiday trip.”

Not only does Maou have to take three lines which he is not familiar with, he still had to get off at two terminal stations. Looks like it was further than he had thought.

Partly because of economic reasons, ever since Maou and Ashiya drifted to Japan, the two of them had never left the 23rd District of Tokyo. Even though this is the first time they will head to other provinces, like what the other party said, this long journey feels like it would become a holiday trip.

Even the Demon King, who had travelled the whole world to conquer it, felt that a three hour long journey is a little far.

“After you reach Inubo, I will drive there to pick you guys up. Call me when you arrive.....”

“I understand. Uh, so, it’s a bit late asking this now, may I know your name as well as the name of your store.....”

Even though this isn’t something which is asked after everything is settled, it needs to be known.

Maou, who asked this gingerly, almost pulled the phone away from his ear because of the loud laugh from the other party.

“Ahahaha, I’m sorry, that’s right. Why haven’t I told you my name?”

This is something that we should be asking.

“I’m sorry, only introducing myself so late, I am Aunt Mi-chan’s niece, Ooguro Amane.”

“Amane-san huh..... I got it. So for the day after tomorrow, when would it be convenient for us to come over.....”

For working, this question is to be expected, but Ooguro Amane’s reply exceeded all of Maou’s experiences.

“Hm, you can come over anytime.”

“Eh?”

“Just choose a time which is convenient for you, I’ll pick all of you up at any time.”

“I, I see..... then is there anything related to the job which we would need to have?”

“Stamina?”

The answer of the other party is very simple. But what Maou wanted to ask wasn’t about this.

“Uh, you should just need to bring your clothes, towels and toothbrushes? For the other things which you lack, you can just replenish them here.”

It’s not as if they were going to a relative’s house to play. Isn’t there anything that needs to be used during work?

“That’s right, you need to bring beach sandals. You can’t bring flip flops, it needs to be those where they are straps around the ankle. If not, it will be easy to trip on the sand, or get washed away by the waves. If you work barefoot, you may cut your feet on the rubbish, pebbles or shells under the sand, so that’s not allowed.

“Beach sandals. I understand. I will buy shoes that fit.”

That's right, that's what I wanted to ask. But this serious topic of things to take note with regards to work ended quickly.

“Not only beach sandals, since it's a rare chance to be here, you might as well bring your swimsuit and goggles. If you want to play with fireworks, we have many different and good varieties! Even though you can't play with the ones which fly upwards, but playing with the sparklers (Note: A type of gunpowder wrapped in paper, which would give off sparkling fireworks after lighting) amongst the sea wind is like a fight to the death, very exciting!”

“..... Is that so.”

It looks like it would be better to treat it with a totally different thinking from working in the city. Halfway through the conversation, the topic has completely changed to leisure and play.

Or is it only Ooguro-ya who acts like this? (Note: As only Samurai were given last names in the Edo era, most people would have the habit of using the founder's given name or location name as the business or dealer name).

“Ah, but there is something I need to mention first.”

“Yes, what is it?”

Ooguro Amane's tone of voice suddenly became more serious. Following suit, Maou also reigned in his expressions, and waited for the other party to continue.

“Because this is not a fashionable place, so even though there are tourists, they are mostly adults. It's a rather dull place which does not bring much motivation.”

“Alright.”

“In addition, there are many things to handle in this job, I did say that you can swim all you want, but in reality, you can only play at the beach in the mornings and later in the evenings. Therefore.....”

After pausing for a while, Amane spoke with a tone of voice like she was going to announce something important,

“Don't expect to have a beautiful encounter with a swimsuit wearing young lady! Basically, dating is something which will cause trouble to others, so dating is not allowed!”

“What have you been saying since just now!”

“Eh? Aren't these things important to guys?”

“There’s nothing like that! Then again, aren’t we supposed to go there to work?”

From this series of conversations, it’s expected for Maou to have this question.

“Ah, I get it, Maou-san already has a partner?”

“Not at all!!!!”

Maou said this at a louder volume than what he was using so far, and from the corner of his eye, saw Chiho, Emi and Riho widened their eyes in surprise as they did not know what was going on.

Normally, calls which talk about work issues should be more tension filled and filled with work related elements. Of course, if it was a workplace which was laborious, impersonal and only earns money, it would be very troubling, but not feeling any tension was also an issue.

Because of Kisaki’s personal values, the work at the MgRonalds in front of Hatagaya station was not especially strenuous, but there will be still unique standards of operations, work etiquette and unwritten rules present at many large scale chain stores.

For Maou, who had worked under such an environment, the feeling which Ooguro-ya gave off totally exceeded his predictions.

Just as Maou was gasping for air, the other party seemed to be thinking about something.

“If you’re a hardcore Herbivore male (Note: Refers to the group of guys who have little or no interest in the opposite gender and only focuses on one’s own hobbies), then I can rest easy. But it feels a little off. From what I heard from Aunt Mi-chan, I thought it would be a more bold and generous group of people.”

Exactly how did the landlady describe Maou and Ashiya, and what kind of impressions did Amane imagine from that?

Maou was confident that it was not possible to be able to find someone else like him, a hardworking, honest, upright Demon who was living seriously while conquering the world and working, in the past as well as the future.

He has work perform well as work in other to clear the various misunderstandings which arose from this phone call.

“In short, on the day after tomorrow, I will come here as early as possible!”

“Understood, I’ll wait for you guys.”

He didn’t do anything special, but after this conversation which lacked any feelings of tension, Maou still felt strangely tired.

“What were you guys talking about?”

Emi was the first one to raise a difficult question. For those people who were listening from the side, it wasn't a normal interview discussing about work.

“I'm not too sure myself.”

Right now, even for Maou himself, he could only answer that it was an unfamiliar job, working under an unfamiliar person, in an unfamiliar place.

“So, how did things go? Is everything alright work-wise?”

Riho asked with a shake of the ice filled glass. Maou kept his mobile phone and bowed deeply.

“Thank you for lending us the tape player. Thanks to you, we finally do not have to drift into the streets. From the day after tomorrow, we will work at the beach house in Chiba.”

“Oh, that's really great.”

Riho nodded with a smile.

Chiho looked like she breathed a sigh of relief, but still, she suddenly remembered something and asked,

“Three people, does that include Urushihara-san? Would that be alright? Is he able to go out, or talk to people normally?”

Expectedly, Chiho had thought of the same questions as Maou, and from the look of unease on her face, she seemed to have decided that Urushihara would give the other party a bad impression.

“What is it? Is Urushihara-san the type of person who would stay at home?”

Riho, who was not in the loop, deciphered the uneasy atmosphere around Chiho and asked this at the same time.

“I’m sorry, letting you hear about such an embarrassing thing..... but the other person and I would do our best to cover for him.”

And Maou just admitted it without any reservations.

“Hm.....”

Riho, who looked like she didn’t mind that much, nodded while glancing at her daughter’s face from the side. And Chiho was currently looking at Maou with wistful expression on her face.

“Ah, thank you for your notepad and pen.”

Maou returned the stationery for taking notes back to Riho. As for Emi, she spoke to Maou while looking at the notes he wrote.

“I hoped you learnt your lesson. Next time when the landlady sends other things over, you have to open it properly.”

“Uh.....yeah, that is, I will deal with it appropriately.”

Maou thought that because Emi could only say those things because she had never seen ‘that photo’. However, the fact that the landlady had saved him is also the truth. Just on this point, he must thank her properly.

Just as the group of people realized that the tape was still playing and turned towards the screen with the intention to switch it off, at this point of time-----

“Oh yes, I had the chance to learn belly dancing in Egypt.”

The landlady who seemed to be talking about random topics until now, said this on the video.

When the group was not noticing, the background behind the landlady had changed from the pyramids in the desert to a place which looks like a luxurious palace ballroom.

“A member of a tribe who made music and dance their profession decided that I am a first rate dancer. After this, I will take part in a major dance event being held here. Everyone, please watch my dance.”

“Oh my, such beautiful clothes.”

From Maou’s point of view, Riho’s opinion was too abnormal.

The landlady, being shown on the screen, had already changed into a blouse which revealed her shoulders. On top of her abdomen where her waist cannot be identified, it was decorated with countless numbers of dazzling gems and coins and with her fluttering bright red skirt made of chiffon and satin, she had instantly turned into a giant flower monster.

Maou’s movements can only be described as lightning speed.

I can’t allow this tape to continue playing. If it continues, it will only cause misfortune to others!

However, as Maou’s fingers touched the stop button on the tape player, accompanied by oriental style music , the video started to mercilessly show the landlady’s shaking arms, abdomen, neck and various places on her whole

body. Starting to shake her waist and bottom, she performed the eastern secret dance which once sucked the whole of Europe into a whirlpool of senses ----- the scene of “Belly Dancing”.

After that, Maou lost all his memories from now until the morning of the next day.

*

“Seriously..... mum, you’re too excited.”

After seeing off Maou and Emi, as well as Ashiya, who came to pick up the unconscious Maou, Chiho started to complain to her mother after closing the main door on the porch.

Even though she could understand her mother’s feelings, but if she welcomed the guests with such passion, it would be awkward for the child when they meet their friends later on.

“Oh my, does it matter. Even though I know that Maou-san is very serious when he works, if I don’t know what kind of person he is, it will difficult for me to make a judgment.”

This sentence which her mother said while clearing the tableware in the living room caused Chiho to widen her eyes in surprise.

“You said you know..... Mum. Did you go to the store?”

“Why are you so surprised? Isn’t that to be expected?”

“I told you before that it will be troubling for me and you should not go.....”

“So I exercised self-control and didn’t greet anyone. However.....”

Riho glanced at the notepad which Maou used.

“He’s a good person. Maou-san.”

“Eh?”

“Yeah, if he’s that kind of person, it’s fine if Chiho likes him.”

“Mum!”

In a rare occurrence, Chiho said this in an agitated manner, but Riho turned a deaf ear to this.

“He’s diligent and polite, for a guy, his handwriting can be considered to be rather beautiful. He does not give off a flippant feeling, and does not have any cigarette smell on him. And from the fact that he uses such an old mobile

phone, he should be very thrifty on his daily life, right? Is the person who came to get him Ashiya-san? In this day and age, it's rare to see a simple and unadorned guy like him."

For Ashiya's situation, rather than saying that he's simple and unadorned, it would be more accurate to say that he was poor.

"Your father used to be a poor student who lived a hard life, I guess this is hereditary?"

Ignoring the fact if the liking of certain types of guys can be inherited, but for the daughter who is being counselled by her own parents, it was really an uncomfortable feeling.

"Currently, it's difficult to find such an honest person like him. You shouldn't have anything to worry about, right?"

"Wo, worry?"

Chiho looked at her mother's eyes in surprise.

"Do you think you can deceive your mother's eyes? For example, knowing that Maou-san working place is in Chiba, or when talking about Urushihara-san, you were frowning so badly."

Chiho blushed subconsciously, and belatedly used her hand to cover her forehead.

“That’s, that’s because.....”

With her right hand covering her forehead, and left hand grabbing the hem of her skirt, Chiho said bashfully,

“How should I put it, even though Maou-san and Ashiya-san are down to earth and capable people, but Urushihara-san is a lazy bum who is sloppy in various areas and does not take things seriously. Every day, he only surfs the internet. I’m worried that Maou-san would end up causing harm to his body because he is covering for Urushihara-san in an unfamiliar place, or that Urushihara-san’s attitude would cause them to get fired and so on. If so, not being able to stay in Sasazuka..... is very possible.....”

After fluently saying various criticisms about Urushihara, Chiho suddenly fell silent.

In the past, Chiho had thought that even if Maou and the others did not have a job, in the most serious case, their food and living conditions will become worse, but she finally realised that the situation is not that simple.

The rent in Sasazuka is very high because of the land price. If Maou and the others lost just half a month of income, it is possible that they would have to leave.

In this case, Emi and Suzuno, who chased after them, would definitely do the same.

It wouldn't be that bad if it was just like that. In the worst case, if Maou and the rest returned to Ente Isla because they have nowhere else to go, perhaps the Hero and the Demon King would have to "settle things with each other".

"..... I do not wish, for things to turn out like that."

"Chiho?"

Chiho leaned against the wall at her home, sighing.

"If something went wrong at work, Maou-san and the others may end up going to someplace far away..... Yusa-san, and Suzuno-san at well....."

Even though she cannot fight like Emi, Suzuno or Alas=Ramus, but she could at least help Maou when it comes to work. However, the pre-requisite would have to be that their workplace needs to be near to Sasazuka.

Right now, she was still a normal highschool girl being protected by her parents and cannot imagine how she could be like them, surviving on their own.

Chiho lowered her head with a darkened expression.

Currently, only the sounds of Riho washing the cutlery could be heard.

“Let me say this first, even if you want to go together with Maou-san and the others, I won’t agree to it.

“.....Yeah, I know.”

It was expected for her mother to say that. No matter how much they trusted the other party, there wouldn’t be any parents who would allow a high school girl to work in a place where she had to live with other guys.

She couldn’t lend Maou-san her power.

Just as Chiho, feeling dejected, decided to raise her head.

“Then again.....”

“Eh?”

“Not just Maou-san, Yusa-san seems like a dependable person. She may be young, she responds to others in such an awe-inspiring manner. I feel that the aura she gives off is rather different from the young people today.”

Her mother suddenly started talking about Emi.

Even Chiho, who was not a native of Ente Isla, can also guess that Emi must have experienced a cruel past for her to become the person she is now.

But Chiho did not feel that her mother and Emi spoke that much during the period of time when Maou fainted. Or did they talk about some deep topics when Emi was about to leave?

Chiho paused in shock because she could not guess her mother's intentions.

“Since you are earning your own money, as long as your reason is sensible and logical, I won't say too much about it.”

“Mum.....?”

After washing the cutlery and wiping her hands, Riho mischievously winked and patted her daughter's head.

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“Hey! What happened? Why does his complexion look worse compared to when he first left the house?”

“Papa, what’s wrong?”

“You’re back. But what exactly must happen for something like fainting in Chiho-dono’s house to occur?”

Urushihara, Alas=Ramus and Suzuno welcome Emi, Ashiya and Maou with different questions of their own.

When Emi saw that Urushihara is placating Alas=Ramus, who was on his back, and that Alas=Ramus looked like she was enjoying herself, she got a huge shock.

Could it be that Alas=Ramus had sensed some kind of resonance from Urushihara?

“..... I’m not too sure, it could be that too many things were too much of a shock for the Demon King.”

“So it was a cursed tape after all?”

Compared to the pale looking Maou, Emi replied, as cool as a cucumber, however Urushihara’s face immediately became a shade of pale which did not lose to Maou.

As Emi did not want to bring Maou, who had collapsed at the Sasaki home, back by herself, she called Suzuno, and asked her to get Ashiya to come over to fetch him instead.

After Maou, who was holding on to Ashiya's shoulders, paid his respects, he left the Sasaki home and returned to the Demon Fortress.

Maou walked shakily into the porch and was immersed in the darkness of the Demon Fortress.

“What cursed tape. It's wasn't anything much at all.”

Emi nonchalantly looked at the pale faced Maou.

“Actually fainting after seeing a female dance, how rude.”

“Dance.....”

Urushihara seemed to remember something because of this sentence and his face started to stiffen up.

“Seriously, you guys are exaggerating too much. Chiho and Chiho's mum finished watching it normally.”

“Ehhh? You're lying?”

“Lucifer, Mama won’t lie!”

As Urushihara did not believe Emi’s words, Alas=Ramus, who was on his back kept hitting the back of Urushihara’s head with a “Papapa” in protest.

But Emi’s testimonial is the truth.

Riho honestly praised the landlady’s clothes, and apart from being surprised that the landlady is a large sized woman, Chiho did not have any other special reactions.

“Anyway, from the day after tomorrow, you will be going to Chiba with the Demon King. You will stay at a beach house run by the landlady’s relative until the end of the Obon festival in August.”

“Oh? In other words, it’s a job which provides accommodation. Doesn’t that fit your wishes nicely?”

Suzuno clapped in admiration.

“Is Mama going to Chiba too?”

Alas=Ramus asked as she poked her head out from her perch on Urushihara’s back, Emi smiled wryly and lifted Alas=Ramus from Urushihara’s back.

“Mama will be together with Alas=Ramus, okay?”

“Yeah!”

In order to avoid the situation in which Alas=Ramus will keep asking to go to Chiba together with “Papa”, Emi carried the young girl and changed the topic with an adult’s slyness while looking towards Urushihara.

“She’s not that light now. Ah~ how heavy. So, Chiba? Hm, it doesn’t sound so bad.”

Emi did not miss what Urushihara said to himself as he shook the arm which supported Alas=Ramus.

This fallen angel did not include himself as part of the working staff at all.

“Even though I’m thankful that you helped to take care of Alas=Ramus, you shouldn’t start complaining because of such a small thing. Work at a beach house sounds difficult, you know? I think this is a good chance for you to change those NEET habits of yours.”

“Eh, what, I have to work too?”

Emi thanking him and the content that followed caused Urushihara to be surprised twice in different ways.

“At least that’s how those guys planned it. Then again, accommodation is already provided, do you still think you’re the only one who doesn’t have to work?”

“Uh, that, because, eh?”

Urushihara fiddled with his bangs and stuttered when he answered.

“What is this, isn’t a beach house too much. It’s so hot already, why do we have to specially go to a place with such a high temperature..... then again, why didn’t anyone discuss this with me first.....”

“You are really clueless about your own standing.”

Suzuno, who stood at the side, lectured Urushihara sternly as he talked to himself.

“Even if it was discussed with you, there won’t be any constructive opinion. Emilia is right, this is a good chance. Just treat it as going to a counselling centre!”

“I don’t want to! What kind of analogy is that! A, and, I never worked before, and I might cause trouble to others instead, in addition, even if Olba is in detention, it wouldn’t be good if I appeared in front of other people now, isn’t that right?”

Towards Urushihara, who shamelessly kept making excuses, both females looked at him coldly.

“Since you’re making so many excuses, how long do you plan on not working?”

“You say that it’s inconvenient for you to appear in front of other people, then why do you always meet with the driver from Amazon’s Sasuke Delivery Company so nonchalantly? Hm?”

“It’s been almost three months after the incident with Olba, has anything happened? Don’t you go to the bath house as well? Or has the police looked for you before and put you in some dangerous situation?”

“Bu, but, it’s easy to get careless when the sense of danger is lacking! Even if nothing happened today, it doesn’t mean nothing will happen tomorrow, if anything, it’s because I admit that I have committed a crime, so I’m staying at home to reflect.....”

“If you are really staying at home to repent and reflect, then I have nothing to say, but you, who is idly wasting time and leeching on your superior and colleague, you have no right to say such nonsense. Rather than that, you

would be a little cuter if you had helped the Demon King make plans to conquer the world instead.”

“Uh...ughh!”

Having the two females lecture him in such an organized and logical manner, tears started to appear in the corner of Urushihara’s eyes.

“If you don’t work, then what do you plan to do? You don’t have a place to live, so how are you going to shut yourself at home? If you plan to do evil things like when you teamed up with Olba, I won’t let you off this time.”

“Even though it is still possible for you to be the only one who doesn’t work and impose on the other party, but it should be rather embarrassing. However, if you have the courage to ask a stranger for food even though you don’t work, that would be another matter.”

“Mama, Suzu-nee chan, don’t bully Lucifer, okay?”

Even though Alas=Ramus only knew the two people were lecturing Urushihara, she still protected Urushihara with a troubled look on her face. However, this only hurt Urushihara’s pride even further.

“Sigh, this is a matter of the Demon Fortress anyway, I have no reason to be worried about all of you.”

“True. He’s just a low grade demon who fell from the sky. His sense of shame and hardworking attitude must be fallen with his status as an angel.”

“Y, you people! I’m going to cry! If you continue, I’m really going to cry! Basically, isn’t Bell not working as well? Don’t act so high and mighty!”

Urushihara shouted loudly with a voice which sounded like he was already crying.

“Even though Bell isn’t working in Japan now, but she is a proper inquisitor in Ente Isla, and is taking action with a clear goal in mind. In addition, whether it’s cleaning, laundry or cooking, she does it all herself. Even though she doesn’t have a job like you, the disparity between you and Bell is like the sky and the earth.”

“Damn.....! Damn! Actually looking down on me!”

“Lucifer, boys can’t cry, okay. Pain pain go away, Away!”

“I’m happy, yet not happy at all!”

Even though it seems like only Alas=Ramus is on Lucifer’s side, Urushihara still rejected the frantically outstretched hand with teary eyes, causing Emi and Suzuno to roll their eyes.

“Forget it, I understand! As long as I get serious, Maou won’t be able to match me when it comes to work! I will definitely make you take back your words!”

Urushihara shouted agitatedly and closed the main door to room 201 without waiting for their reply. Emi and Suzuno saw this and looked at each other, relieved.

“Looks like it went well?”

“It should be alright... mostly.”

“Mama, Suzu-nee chan, don’t keep scolding Lucifer, okay?”

With a tired look on her face, Emi pacified the protesting Alas=Ramus while looking at the tightly closed door of the Demon Fortress.

“If they became homeless because they are unemployed and gave up entirely, it would be troublesome. Let’s not discuss about the Demon King and Alsiel. As Lucifer might really harm the Japanese, it’s especially worrying.”

The reason for Emi’s strange behaviour in helping Maou solve his unemployment problem was because of this.

Emi was worried if Urushihara, who lacked self-control, lost the current stability in his life, there was no telling what he might do. Now that the three demons finally found a stable job and a place to stay, she could finally relax.

“However, that city called Choshi should be really far away from Sasazuka.”

Simply put, it is in Chiba, but this range is still very large, and Emi wasn’t sure where exactly is Kimigahama situated. However, just this time, Emi wasn’t that worried about the movements of Maou and the rest.

“Bell, have you met with the landlady before?”

“Hm, we have only communicated via letters.....”

Emi remembered the first time she met the landlady---Shiba Miki of Sasazuka Villa Rosa.

“I can’t really express this well..... but as long as it is related to that landlady, I think that even if those guys want to do bad things, they won’t be able to achieve their goal. Of course, I don’t plan to just watch from the side, but even if I don’t follow them closely, there shouldn’t be any problem.”

“What does that mean?”

That day when Urushihara and Olba took Chiho as a hostage and challenged them.

Even though only a few months passed since then, it felt like something which happened a long time ago.

“As a human from Ente Isla, we own a lot of this world, or we have a power and unexplainable things that the people of Earth do not. However.....”

----Shouldn’t you be the most knowledgeable about how powerful belief and faith can be?

“The Earth must have a lot of power which we do not know about and unexplainable things.”

Suzuno, who did not understand what was said, tilted her head.

“In addition, there is still the matter of Chiho-chan.”

“Chiho-dono?”

“Whether that child is willing or not, she is already too deeply involved with us. Even if we want to go after the Demon King and the rest, we need to ensure her safety before leaving Sasazuka.”

The inhabitants of Ente Isla and Heaven have already decided that Chiho is one of the people involved in the battle between the Hero and the Demon King. Currently, even if they manipulate Chiho's memory, it will not change the fact that she is important to Emi and Maou.

If Chiho was captured by Sariel or Gabriel as a hostage, it would be too late.

Emi crossed her arms in front of her chest, deep in thought.

“The best way would be to obtain consent from Chiho’s mother, and bring her along.....but it should be difficult to do that.....it would be a lot easier if her parents happened to go overseas.”

“You should face reality.”

A high school girl would still have to act according to the situation of the adults and this was the troubling thing.

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The day after Maou agreed to accept the accommodation and work for Landlady Miki’s niece, Ooguro Amane.

Maou and the others are busy preparing for the next two weeks.

After the Demon King and Demon General begged the inquisitor next door with all their might, the other party finally agreed to let them store their fridge, washing machine and other appliances in the same storage unit.

“I really want to take a photo for this and treat it as the Church has beaten the Demon King.”

The way the both of them knelt down was so perfect that Suzuno said this in surprise.

After ensuring the furniture and the electrical appliances have been taken care of, the next thing would be to prepare for the lodging which starts from tomorrow.

“No matter how much luck has worked well for us so far, if we neglect our preparations, we might miss out on the luck.”

The one who took this seriously would of course be the Demon Fortress’ house-husband Ashiya.

Even though the other party said that the only necessity is beach sandals, but in reality, it is not possible to go there with just a pair of beach sandals. Since they have to stay there for two weeks, then they would naturally have to prepare enough change of clothes.

“Shirts, underwear and socks, it should be enough to bring four days worth. If we adjust the frequency of the laundry, we should be able to get by.”

“The shop doesn’t seem to have a uniform, so we have consider wearing T-shirts during work?”

“If so, do we have to bring T-shirts specially for work.....as for pants, it should be better to bring short pants.”

“Sigh, even though I think wearing jeans and folding them up is fine as well.....but how should I say this, normally I am wearing the same uniform as the rest while working, so I have no idea how it feels like to work with this kind of relaxed work attire.”

“You’re right. Even the east, west, south and north troops of the Demon King Army wear the same badge.”

“How about this, why don’t we go to UNIxLO and buy a few of the same T-shirt?”

“Buy the uniform with our own money? This reminds me of the short time contract work which we did when we first arrived in Japan.”

“Ah, you’re talking about those shirts where we had to buy with our own money which had the company logo printed on it. But weren’t those long sleeved?”

“The weather is so hot, I really don’t want to have others wear those kind of clothes.”

Maou and Ashiya flipped the clothes they prepared over as they discussed about their luggage while Urushihara watched this scene, unable to butt in at all.

As if some strange wind had blown, Urushihara seemed suddenly motivated and decided to help Maou and Ashiya out.

However, when washing the dishes, there would still be some oil stains remaining; when folding clothes, they would be shaped like a parallelogram; when hanging the towels, they would accidentally be dropped into the backyard; not only is Urushihara not of any use, he ended up causing more trouble, so he was banished to the corner of the room to reflect as punishment.

“What, isn’t everyone like this at the beginning?”

Urushihara, who rarely got motivated, complained immediately.

Maou and Ashiya are the leaders in the army, which also meant that they were in the position to command others.

Even though in their hearts, they always had the spirit of “If I don’t show others, tell others, and let others try and praise others, then I won’t be able to have others act”, this time, not only is the other party a fallen angel, but also the commander for the invasion into the Western Continent, Demon General Lucifer.

The two of them are even beginning to suspect that because Urushihara did not do a good job commanding the western invasion army, which allowed Hero Emilia to rise in the Western Continent.

Whether there is any relation between unable to wash to dishes clean and stopping the Hero’s advancement, when Maou imagined the case in which he had flown to Japan with Lucifer, who was good at nothing except for watching the house, instead of Ashiya, who was good at all the housework, he would feel a chill go down his spine.

“.....Ashiya.....I’m really lucky to have a follower like you.”

Maou said with feeling, putting his hand on Ashiya’s shoulder.

Even though Ashiya stared blankly at the hand on him because of this sentence, after his brain processed the meaning, he suddenly wavered and kneeled in front of Maou.

“That, that is, thank you for your praise, but why did you suddenly say this? Uh, that, it’s definitely not because I don’t like to be praised.....”

In order to hide his embarrassment, Ashiya looked around the room and finally focused on one spot.

“Urushi, Urushihara, use that stack of magazines over there to wrap the dishes and put them in the box. You should be able to do something this simple, right.”

“Don’t look down on me!”

Ashiya lectured Urushihara loudly to hide his embarrassment, and Urushihara, who was dragged into this, got angry, but was unable to rebut him further. With a displeased look on his face, Urushihara approached the magazine paper and cardboard boxes, using the old flyers and newspapers to wrap the fragile dinnerware.

“Uh, that, I don’t want to pamper Urushihara, but is it really alright?”

“Are you talking about the fact that I may have a warrant on me? Hm.....at that time, I didn’t really pay attention to the surveillance camera.”

For Urushihara to say that he had been a robber in Japan without an ounce of regret, he was definitely a demon.

“Your demon form and appearance isn’t that different. You should think before you act.”

“That’s because I never thought that things will turn out like this.”

Just as Urushihara turned away unhappily and Maou, in charge of folding the clothes, was battling with the extravagant decorations on the mantle which he wore when he was the Demon King----

“Ah, Demon King-sama. Because Demon King-sama’s mantle is thick and absorbs moisture easily, it can be eaten by bugs, please remember to put some insect repellent inside.”

Ashiya suddenly added a perplexing sentence.

“.....Two years ago, I never expected that I would be putting insect repellent in my own mantle.”

Maou gave a displeased look to Urushihara, who was laughing to himself, and following Ashiya’s instructions, he placed insect repellent into the gaps of the cardboard box.”

“Then again, did that guy Olba really get arrested by the police?”

From what Maou and the others knew, when Maou solved the commotion caused by Olba and Urushihara’s schemes after recovering his magic, Olba was taken away by the police.

“He did break the Law Controlling the Possession of Firearms and Swords, so it seems like he was arrested later.”

“Is that so?”

“Yeah. Even though some time has passed, but it was reported on the online news before. It looks like it wasn’t serious enough to make it to television or newspapers.”

“Hey hey hey, isn’t that bad?”

“No, I think there wouldn’t be much problem.”

Ashiya interrupted.

“I’ve seen that piece of news before as well. It seems like he was seen as a foreigner who entered illegally and used the gun he had to destroy property. Because of that, he is being suspected of being supported by an underground immigration special service or a violent organization. Of course, he was also suspected of being related to the robbery incidents which happened earlier.....”

“However, the damages weren’t large, and no one died, so there’s no news value.”

“As the initiator, you shouldn’t be the one to say this. Then again, Ashiya, where did you see that piece of news?”

“The computer at home. Even though it’s counted as Urushihara’s now.”

Ashiya glanced at the laptop computer which had completely became Urushihara’s internet surfing tool.

By the way, as Urushihara insisted on bringing the laptop, everything, including the wireless equipment, would be brought to Chiba.

“Even though he’s just a good-for-nothing now, he is still a criminal before. So I was thinking that if anything happened, I’m going to hand him over to the police.”

“Wah, you don’t trust me that much? Aren’t you being too much saying that?”

“From that day till now, which part about you is worth trusting?”

In response to the cold words from Ashiya, Urushihara had nothing to say.

“Anyway, there were no reports related to the incidents Olba caused after that.”

“Totally no reports?”

Maou suddenly paused in his movements, deep in thought.

“Hey, Urushihara, Olba shouldn’t have used up his holy power, right?”

“I think so. But during the battle with you and Emilia, he did use his full power, so I’m not sure if he still has the means to open the “gate”. Why? You’re worried that he would cause trouble in Japan with the holy power he has left?”

“Sigh, that’s right.”

“Hmm.....I don’t think so.”

Urushihara shrugged, and continued,

“After all, Olba doesn’t know my current situation, and basically Emilia is his enemy now, right? Wanting to break out of jail and take revenge without recovering his holy powers first is impossible in terms of battle strength. The most he can do is report me, or use spells to run off. Isn’t Bell revealing the unjust acts of the Church right now? In this way, even if he returns to Ente Isla, he shouldn’t be able to wield the Church’s power as he pleases.”

“Honestly, the most troublesome thing he can do is report you. If a member of my household is a criminal, I might really be fired.”

“Urushihara, if the Demon Fortress really gets investigated, in order to protect Demon King-sama’s job, we will act like we don’t know you and hand you over to the police.”

“As you wish! Didn’t the police come over before? Nothing much happened that time.”

“Ah.....the time when Suzuno broke the bicycle.”

Even though Maou was severely scolded by the police for leaving the remains of Dullahan in front of Tochomae station, at the beginning he had thought that they had come because of Urushihara.

“Relax, we’re only going to Chiba during the summer. I’m not even publicly wanted, aren’t you thinking too much about it?”

“Aren’t you caring too little about this..... however, it’s better to investigate a little about this when we have the time.”

To the inhabitants of the Demon Fortress who want to live a peaceful life in Japan, Olba Meyers’ existence is like a fish bone stuck in one’s throat, a leek stuck on the molars, or black sesame stuck between the front teeth, a factor which occasionally makes one feel uncomfortable.

“Then again, Urushihara, have you wrapped the dinnerware?”

“I’m done. Basically all these are plastic. Even if I don’t specially do it, they won’t break right?”

Even if he shows the willingness to help others, Urushihara would still say some unnecessary things, so Ashiya lectured him, saying,

“Even if they are plastic dinnerware, if the surface gets scratched, they will still be a breeding ground for bacteria!”

“Ah~~alright alright, I’m sorry, I get it, I get it!”

Urushihara covered his ears, showing that he is not listening.

“Seriously.....oh yes, Demon King-sama. Have you contacted Manager Kisaki?”

“No, I’m going down later, I want to tell her personally. Even though a lot of construction workers would be going down today, she said that she would be in the store until evening.”

“Then it would be better if you left earlier. Since the packing is almost done, then all that’s left is buying the necessities.”

“How about I buy them after I visit the store?”

“Because we need to buy luggage cases, it would be better for me to go since I know the total amount of the luggage we have. If there are no special requests, I’m going to buy the beach sandals as well. In addition, I need to let some people know as well.....”

“Ah, is that so?”

Till today, Maou did not hear Ashiya talk about which people he knew or where he had worked. Even though he had some questions, but when he thought carefully about it, there was no need for him to know everything about Ashiya.

Even if he did not hear it from the person himself, but Maou knew that Ashiya would occasionally accept some short term work, using the salary received to supplement the household income and finance the magic civilization research which Maou kept forgetting about recently.

Faced with the suggestion from such a loyal subject, Maou would definitely agree easily. Right now, even if Ashiya knew the shoe size of every single person, Maou wouldn’t be surprised.

“Is that so, alright, I’ll leave it to you.”

“Understood. I wish the talk between you and Manager Kisaki will go smoothly. For our future.....”

“And the meals from tomorrow onwards.”

While talking, Maou and Ashiya left the house and headed towards Sasazuka to accomplish their respective objectives. Urushihara watched the two of them leave as a question which did not suit his personality came to him.

“Those guys, do they really plan to conquer the world? Haven’t they been mixing up their objectives and methods recently?”

This is a question which Suzuno, Chiho and Emi have thought of before. But even if Urushihara thought about this now, he was unable to grasp Maou’s true intention.

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Scaffolding and tarp to block out the dust had been set up on the outside of the building stationed in front of Hatagaya station. Once Maou reached the store front, he heard someone calling out to him.

“Maou-san! Is your body alright?”

Even though Chiho had come to submit the shift timetable for after the renovation, which is the second half of August, she was still worried about Maou's health condition, who had fainted last night.

“Ah, thank you very much for yesterday, hmm, even though it's a little, but it's alright.....yeah.”

Maou thought back to the scene of the landlady's belly dancing from last night and at that moment, became a little dizzy.

Chiho, who looked wistful, looked at Maou worriedly and fell silent. After all, no matter how worried she is, from tomorrow onwards, Maou would be heading to an unknown workplace where she cannot follow.

“Chi, Chi-chan, is something wrong?”

Even though Maou's keen senses picked up on the strange atmosphere, Chiho only shook her head weakly.

In this delicate atmosphere, the two of them decided to enter the store to greet Kisaki in order to get rid of the awkwardness between them.

“I see, you found a good place to work.”

Maou explained that with the landlady's recommendation, he would be going to work at a beach house in Chiba during the renovation period, Kisaki nodded understandingly.

“So, you'll still be coming back right?”

“Eh?”

Faced with Kisaki's sudden question, Maou gave an expression which showed that he didn't understand.

“You shouldn't have any plans to travel between Sasazuka and Choshi everyday right? So if the other party didn't provide accommodation, then you would be moving there, correct?”

Kisaki shifted her line of sight to the handwritten shift timetable Chiho had submitted and asked this while intentionally not looking at Maou's expression.

“I have no plans to tie you down. But for me to develop someone to the point of being able to be my right hand man is a rare thing. Having to let you go would be a pity.”

Kisaki said in a neutral tone. But Kisaki won't say jokes which are not amusing and does not tell lies. So when talking about her opinions on Maou, it should be Kisaki's real and sincere thoughts.

“I’m only staying there temporarily. I will definitely come back!”

Because of the boost he received from Kisaki’s opinions, Maou’s voice was filled with manliness.

This sentence, full of assurance, allowed Chiho to relax a little.

Kisaki, who finally smiled, looked at Maou in satisfaction.

“Very good, I always remember that you had mentioned in your interview that you wanted to be an outstanding full time staff. And from your work attitude, I know that you were serious when you said it.”

“Even though I performed really badly in various aspects this time.....”

“This doesn’t count as much, rather than that, you were too capable from the start. You’re more adorable if you fail occasionally like an ordinary person. When you can still recover from your failures, you should take the chance to experience this a few more times. You can use these experiences in the future.”

Even though Maou had mixed feelings when he heard “like an ordinary person”, Kisaki, who did know anything, laughed lightly and said,

“In order to punish you for forgetting to confirm important matters, and causing a situation which can impede your career, after the reopening, I want you to work twice as hard as before, okay.”

After saying this, Kisaki patted Maou’s shoulder, which almost caused him to be unable to hold back his tears.

“For Chi-chan, even though you don’t have shifts lined up for now, don’t push yourself too hard after this. I know you want to work together with Maa-kun, but you’re still young, take this summer to learn things other than work related ones.”

“Ki, Kisaki-san!”

In a rare chance, Kisaki said something cheeky. For Chiho, who had yet to give up on going together with Maou, it was as if she was seen through.

Maou, who felt uncomfortable because of this, turned his line of sight to another direction.

Kisaki looked at the two young people with a smile and changed the topic.

“Then again, since Chi-chan didn’t raise any request to be transferred to other branches, don’t tell me you’re planning to go to Choshi? You should know that Maa-kun is going to Choshi, correct?”

Chiho got a shock because of this sudden question.

“Eh, ah, th, that is, I.....”

After giving an extremely naïve reaction, Chiho replied after glancing subtly at Maou,

“Without any relation to Maou-san, I’ve been wanting to go there since some time ago.....”

“Oh?”

“Kisaki-san, Maou-san, have you heard of the Choshi Electric Railway?”

For Maou, he definitely remembered the term which he had heard over the phone only last night. As for Kisaki, she thought for a while and found the answer in her memory.

“Choshi Electric Railway.....is it the regional railway which went into financial difficulty and the staff started to sell local desserts in order to allow it to continue operating?”

“That’s the one. The news mentioned that the high school students there also participated in making the local specialty goods, those people who are my

age actually helped the railway company and the area they are living in, this surprised me, so I wanted to see what kind of place it is.”

These words which Chiho spoke with emotion caused Kisaki and Maou and turn towards each other.

“How should I say this, Chi-chan really is a serious child.”

Kisaki sighed with a wry smile.

“Eh?”

“It’s nothing. Having a curiosity to know more is a good thing. Sigh, if you want to go, you have to obtain your parents’ consent first. It is quite far away after all.”

For Kisaki, it was just a reminder of something which is common sense, but the phrase “obtain parents’ consent”, caused Chiho’s originally relaxed expression to grow heavy.

“Yeah, I would confirm with them first.”

Chiho replied with a cheerful tone after much difficulty, but she didn’t know if Kisaki would interpret it this way.

After they talked about some unimportant topics, and Maou and Chiho were about to leave the shop----

“.....
.....”

The two of them encountered by chance, in a perfect “stunned” pose-- to the point where the rose looked like it was going to wither, Sariel.

“Ah, it’s Sariel-san.....”

The moment Chiho, who only recently got rid of any feelings of disgust she felt towards Sariel, spoke, Sariel, who snapped back to reality suddenly used his special ability “Wicked Light of the Fallen” at full power, and shouted at Maou agitatedly,

“Ma-----ou-----you-----!”

“Wahhh!”

Maou’s shirt was forced grabbed by the shorter Sariel which caused him to lean forward unwillingly.

“What is going on, what kind of underhanded methods did you use, why has the shop belonging to my eternal goddess closed, you low life demon, spit it

out, tell me everything about the dwelling of my goddess, else I will burn you to ashes with the fire drawn from my heartbroken feelings of love!”

It looks like Sariel’s range of sight is as narrow as Maou’s on a different meaning. As Kisaki had always stuck a notice telling customers that it would reopen, Sariel had simply overlooked it.

“It hurts, it hurts, the rose thorns really hurt!”

The rose bouquet hit Maou’s face with Sariel’s movements, causing him to be continuously pricked by the roses.

“The generous me even rejected Gabriel’s offer to work together, but you are so ungrateful. Then again, why didn’t you tell me if the shop is going to close, in that way I can bet all my assets and courage to confess to my goddess how I am going to offer up the rest of my life----!”

Judging by common sense, a rebuttal regarding what the assets refer to or how effective the confession would be will cross one’s mind at this time, but compared to Maou, who was already in a lot of pain because of being pricked by the roses, it was Chiho who reacted first.

“Wait, Sariel-san! You mentioned about working with Gabriel-san, what is that supposed to mean?”

“Oh?”

Once Chiho touched the hand which Sariel used to grab the front of Maou's shirt, shaking him back and forth----

“Heh, I never reject the invitation from a beautiful girl. How's this, after this, why don't we eat Sentucky's new menu item, Indian chicken wrap, while drinking tea?”

Sariel immediately let go of Maou, and grabbed Chiho's hand with the pose that he was preparing to kiss it.

“I'm going to tell Kisaki-san, you know.”

However, Chiho did go through multiple instances of dangerous situations, life threatening as well as various strange situations. Right now, she was not so weak that she would panic at this kind of low standard harassment.

Partly because she was feeling depressed due to being unable to go along with Maou, Chiho's tone of voice became very cold.

Once Sariel heard this, he gave an expression which bordered between hope and despair.

“Ugh.....please, please spare me.....so, is my goddess still in this store?”

Swords weren't needed to deal with Sariel. It was enough to depend on the word "Kisaki".

"If you want to know the answer, then answer my question. You said you refused to work together with Gabriel. what is that supposed to mean?"

"Ugh, uh, that, that is....."

For the moment, Sariel was at a loss for words. It was obvious he was regretting the fact that he let such a thing slip.

Compared to that, Maou was in awe towards Chiho, who had Sariel wrapped around her little finger.

"Chi-chan, you've grown stronger....."

He had changed a person's life in many aspects. Habouring various feelings, Maou imprinted this incident into his memory.

"As long as you're willing to explain this honestly, I will tell you what happened to the store. If not, I'm going to call Kisaki-san and tell her "Sariel-san seems to want to sexually harass me."

“Earlier, Gabriel came to my store. He wanted me to help in retrieving Emilia’s holy sword and the ‘Yesod’ fragment, and told me about many things as well.”

Hearing what Chiho said, Sariel immediately explained everything honestly, answering Chiho’s question smoothly.

Sariel’s attitude can only be described as capricious.

“Is it really alright for you to be like this?”

As for changing the life of an angel, Maou felt that it really did not matter after just two seconds.

As the two of them were talking, Sariel kept holding Chiho’s hand. From the way Sariel did not care about the suspicious gazes of the people passing by, perhaps he was fated to go down this path in life.

“The reason I wanted to retrieve Emilia’s holy sword was originally to cover of Gabriel’s mistake. It’s just that at the beginning, no one had told me that ‘Yesod’ had split into many pieces, and that one of them had assumed the form of a child. Honestly my mind is currently filled with matters related to the goddess, so I didn’t think about the holy sword at all. Talking about that, that guy hasn’t come to the store after that.”

Even though the term goddess can easily confuse people, but simply put, Sariel's meaning is that he is fully focused, mind and soul, on Kisaki, and did not care about the mission from Heaven. Archangel-san, is that really alright?

Really though, it really matches Sariel's style of working, but Maou still sensed that something was strange from what was said.

“Wait, you just said “had split into many parts”. That means you already know that ‘Yesod’ was split by someone?”

“.....Woah!”

Sariel groaned. It looks like he let something slip again. He subtly lifted his head and looked at Chiho.

“You know about it, don’t you?”

“.....Yes, I know.”

Chiho did not give the other party any leeway. Sariel weakly drooped his head.

“Because amongst the shattered fragments, one of the fragments must be with Emilia, so I was given the mission to retrieve the holy sword.”

At the beginning, even when Sariel met Alas=Ramus directly, he didn't realize that she was one of the fragments of 'Yesod'.

Even if it can be deduced that the "Evil Repelling Armour" which evolved after merging with Alas=Ramus is also related to the 'Yesod' fragment, it can be said that even the forces of Heaven is currently unable to accurately grasp what had changed within the fragments of 'Yesod'.

"With regards to retrieving Emilia's holy sword, Gabriel seemed to have failed as well. Which is why he would come looking for me, the one who arrived earlier, hoping that we can work together to retrieve the fragments of 'Yesod'. But I rejected him because I was busy. Just based on the fact that the battle strength of those opposing you did not increase, you should be thanking me already."

Being asked to be thankful or something which happened without one knowing was really troubling.

However, to put it in another way, since Gabriel did not retreat, this also means he had not given up on Alas=Ramus.

Maou and the rest had consecutively chased away two Archangels, so Heaven should be lacking in personnel who could stage an attack.

As for not knowing when or how the other party will take action, for Maou and the others who could only go on the defensive, this kind of situation is still rather unsettling.

“.....?”

“Sa, Sasaki Chiho, what kind of look is that. I was totally honest about everything.”

“Ah, yeah, even though this is about enough.....”

Just like Maou earlier, Chiho was looking at Sariel like she couldn't quite accept some things.

“Sariel-san, why do you have the means to confirm where one of fragments is located.....”

Just as Chiho intended to ask about this----

“What is it, the both of you haven't.....returned yet.....?”

Sariel's expression, because of the voice he heard from behind Maou and Chiho, lit up by a kilowatt.

However, for Maou and Chiho, frozen because they detected a dangerous atmosphere at the ending tone in the voice, they turned back with blue faces.

Kisaki, who had changed out of her usual working uniform, was wearing a light gray suit and had let her hair down. With a large briefcase slung over her shoulder, that was how she appeared in front of everyone.

The one Kisaki noticed was not Maou, and not Chiho. With an angry gaze that could even freeze the king of the demon world, she was glaring at Sariel, kneeling on the ground while holding Chiho's hand.

“.....Mitsuki Sarue, what are you doing to my employees?”

Even though he was being glared at, for unexplainable reasons, Sariel was still full of smiles.

It was said that in North Europe, there was a young man who was stabbed in the heart and eyes by a demon mirror, which caused him to be tricked by the sweet words of an ice queen.

The biggest difference between this young man from North Europe and Sariel should be whether they were loved by the ice queen.

“No, wrong, this is, to describe it, this is a negotiation, I could only use this strategy because I wanted to know where you were

“Seeing that you were contributing to the earnings of the business, I originally wanted to close one eye when it comes to you, but for you to be lacking so much honour such that you would take action against an underage

employee, you can't be seen as a customer. As long as you're within my line of sight, you're temporarily banned from entering this place!"

"Ngoh?"

Archangel Sariel, who cannot be harmed by Emilia's holy sword, simply because of a sentence from a human female, was instantly frozen to the spot and shattered into pieces, the pieces scattering across the ground.

"The both of you should hurry home. Maa-kun, even though you were together with Chi-chan, how can you not protect her properly!"

"Ah, yes, that, I'm sorry."

Maou decided to apologise first, while Chiho, with a frantic expression, looked at Sariel, who at this time seemed like he was being melted by the summer sun and was going to flow into the roadside gutter.

"Chi-chan, we should be heading back."

"Eh? Ah, yeah, that, alright, thanks, thanks for the hard work, Kisaki-san."

Maou and Chiho quickly left MgRonalds and walked along the pedestrian walkway on Koshu Kaido with complicated feelings.

“We, we seemed to have done some disservice to Sariel-san.....”

“Sigh, just treat it as a payback for what he did to Chi-chan earlier during Suzuno’s incident, alright? The rest of it was the result of his actions. Rather than that, Kisaki-san is amazing, being able to tolerate such an excitable guy.”

Maou shot down Sariel mercilessly.

“Talking about earlier, Maou-san.....”

“Yeah, I know.”

Right now, they should be unable to obtain more information from Sariel. Without Chiho’s prompting, Maou is rather concerned about one issue.

Sariel was very sure that “one of the fragments of ‘Yesod’ was with Emilia”.

Logically, after Emilia and the holy sword came to Japan, Heaven had ignored her for over a year. In that case, how were they able to find the holy sword, which was Emilia’s location?

“.....Sigh, it doesn’t matter anyway. They’re not chasing after me, so whatever happens after is Emi’s own problem.....”

Thinking about it calmly, this was originally a problem between Heaven and Emi, besides being attacked by Urushihara at the beginning, Maou is practically an outsider. Just as he decided that he did not need to think too much about this----

“Then it is fine regardless of what happens of Alas=Ramus-chan?”

Chiho, who had predicted Maou’s reaction, asked this with half lidded eyes.

“Yusa-san’s holy sword is currently almost equivalent to Alas=Ramus-chan, isn’t that so.”

“This, about that.....but, but Emi is a lot stronger than me, who can’t fight properly in Japan, even if I don’t specially do anything.....”

“That isn’t the issue. Since you’re her father, how can you not protect her properly? Alas=Ramus will cry like this.”

“Chi,Chi-chan, whose side are you on?”

For Maou, this question implies many things.

“I just hope that the people I like can get along well, and remain together forever.”

Chiho replied with a rather sad expression.

“.....What, what’s wrong? Did anything happen?”

Chiho, who had once thrown a jealous fit because she mistook Emi for Maou’s ex-girlfriend, had become strangely mature recently, and also seemed to be very concerned about the development between Maou, Emi, and Alas=Ramus.

“Yes. I don’t hide it on purpose though.....are you willing to listen? It might become a heavy topic.”

“Ah, yeah, sure.”

“Maou-san said before that you trusted me, and hoped that you could rely on me, right? However.....with the way I am now, it’s not enough.”

“W, why not?”

“Unlike Yusa-san or Suzuno-san, I do not have any fighting ability, and unlike Ashiya-san, I cannot always be with Maou-san. By chance, I happened to stay by Maou-san’s side and coincidentally, I knew the truth. Even if I worry whether Urushihara-san would be able to work properly, I cannot go to Choshi with you.”

Even with the calls of the cicadas coming from the trees on the pedestrian walkway, Chiho's voice could still be heard very clearly by Maou.

“So I feel that I should be working harder, learning more things, and became an adult who can help Maou-san. For someone to rely on me is a rare thing, of course I will hope that I can live up to the other person's expectations.”

“.....Ohh.”

“In addition, I haven't received your reply. In that case, I hope to be able to receive a positive answer at the end, so I must work hard for this goal. And after that, one day.....”

Chiho suddenly crossed her arms, puffed out her chest, and with an intentionally fearless smile, said in a low tone,

“I want to become the top Demon General in the new Demon King Army, and fight with Yusa-san with Maou-san on the line!”

“Geh!”

Chiho's declaration gave Maou a huge shock.

“That, that topic just now, what exactly happened for Chi-chan to be involved with the Generals?”

“Some time ago, Ashiya nominated me before. Of course, I rejected it at that time, but after thinking about it carefully, it would be better to nominate myself first after all.”

Chiho said this in a relaxed tone, like she was only running for the position of class president.

“Even though it may sound like a joke, if I want to surpass Yusa-san, I would need to become more mature and obtain a weapon which can be used to fight with Yusa-san, and it should be a different type of weapon as well. I want to enter university and learn various kinds of knowledge, widen my horizons, and become a girl who Maou-san can rely on, whether it is in Japan or Ente Isla.”

As if Chiho had become more passionate because of the summer heat, in reaction to her words, which were much more filed with vigor compared to everything she had said before, Maou was very surprised.

“University huh.....but I feel that until now, Chiho has already helped us a lot, you know?”



Maou had just finished his sentence when Chiho looked at him, an unsatisfied look on her face.

“Even though ‘Maou-san’ does rely on me a lot, I am always being protected by ‘Maou Satan’.”

This time, Maou was really staring in shock.

“I wish to become a human who ‘Maou’ can completely rely on at any time.”

Even though Maou himself was not aware of it, it seemed like after the both of them were lectured by Kisaki some time ago, the sentence which Maou said to Chiho, acting like a spell, had granted her inner strength.

“.....I.....”

Just as Maou did not know how to reply such a person who is willing to selflessly contribute to him, and was obviously shivering----

“Ah, it’s Ashiya-san.”

Chiho’s attention had already turned towards a totally unrelated direction.

Taking a closer look, Ashiya had walked out of Sasazuka station at this moment. Even though he had an unfamiliar looking wheeled luggage case

with him, and it will be used later, it was still difficult for others to understand why he would be walking out of the station with this object.

Because of Chiho's voice, Ashiya's attention focused in their direction, and after lightly raising a hand, he walked towards the both of them.

“Welcome back, Demon King-sama. Sasaki-san is with you as well?”

“.....Yeah.”

“We met at the store. That case, it would be brought to Choshi? You bought quite a good luggage case.”

Chiho said as she turned towards the luggage case which Ashiya was pulling along.

“Because the living necessities during our accommodation need to be prepared by us, so I was quite troubled by this.....”

Ashiya placed this hand on the brand new large luggage case with a troubled look on his face----it was a large capacity luggage case with wheels which has enough space for the clothes, underwear, towels and daily necessities for three demons.

“Since we can’t leave anything in the apartment, then we have to bring along the important items such as passbooks and seals. And since the security facilities of the place are unknown, it would be better to buy a sturdy case with a lock.”

“I see. That makes sense.”

“Did you take a train to buy it?”

“That’s right. The products in the city center are more complete, and since we are travelling a long distance tomorrow, I wish to preserve some energy today. And later on, I still need to use the public phone at the bus stop.”

As it took about 30 minutes to walk from their apartment to Shibuya, therefore Ashiya would always choose to walk there to save on the 120 yen transport fee. However, pulling a luggage around under the hot summer sun unexpectedly uses up a lot of energy.

In addition, Ashiya still needed to buy beach sandals, spare clothes and a number of other things, so Maou would not reprimand him because of the transport fees of one stop.

Even though Maou was rather curious about the person Ashiya wanted to contact, he had no right to pry into the private matters of his subordinates, even if he was the Demon King.

With Ashiya's personality, he would not specially hide anything from Maou, so even though he thought that this telephone conversation was needed, it should not affect the whole situation that much.

After Maou concluded thus, he turned towards the new luggage cases. Even though the tag is still there, it seemed to have a design where it will automatically open when luggage checks are conducted at the airport.

“You really bought a good one.”

“It is possible that we might go overseas to recover our magic in the future. I treated it as an investment for that time.”

“Ah, this is all for the sake of conquering the world.”

Even though the other party is a great demon who ruled over one continent, it should be difficult to find a human who can say the words “conquering the world” so easily.

“That's right. Oh yes, Sasaki-san is always taking care of us, please look forward to the local specialties which we will buy. I heard that Choshi is one of the few fish harbours in Japan.”

Ashiya, who replied the high school girl cheerfully, made the weight of the words “conquering the world” seem lighter than helium.

“Yes...thanks.”

Compared to the weight of the words conquering the world, it was Chiho's feelings which became heavy as a result. Even though it was expected, Ashiya did not count Chiho as one of the people who were heading for Choshi.

But at this time, Chiho suddenly remembered the people who would definitely follow Maou to Choshi, and asked Ashiya,

“.....Talking about conquering the world, I suddenly remembered. Did Yusa-san or Suzuno-san say anything about the Choshi trip this time?”

As if to confirm that the weight of “conquering the world” had flown off, Maou and Ashiya glanced at each other.

“Talking about that, it's rare of them to not raise any complaints this time. I thought that they would misunderstand our intentions and think we are planning to run off, saying that they would chase us to the ends of the Earth and other ridiculous things like that.”

“Emi did meet the landlady before, so she might think that the other party is someone related to the landlady and we would act more honestly as a result? But those two people seemed to have scolded Urushihara on his bad NEET traits and caused him to cry. How should I say it, including helping us to ensure we have a job, they're especially nice this time.”

“Tr, true..... I, I also think that Yusa-san is especially kind to Maou-san this time.....”

Especially in Emi's case, it was not possible for her to sit by and watch Maou go someone far away. But this time, she gave the impression that she was very composed about it.

In addition to the dangerous information from Sariel earlier, all these factors made Chiho feel uneasy. If Maou and Emi were unable to grasp each other's situation, even Alas=Ramus might be in danger.

The even bigger pity is that, even if she told Emi about the information, Chiho was unable to imagine Emi and Maou working together.

----Sigh, if you want to go, you have to obtain your parents' consent first. It is quite far away after all----

----as long as your reason is sensible and logical, I won't say too much about it----

The voices of the two adults resonated in Chiho's mind.

Chiho, making her decision, took out her mobile phone.

This might be her first selfish act in her whole life. Even if she wasn't lying, to her parents, it might be a dishonest act with warped logic.

Even so----

Chiho wanted to reduce the chances of the people important to her going away.

After making eye contact with Maou and Ashiya, she walked to the side and called home.

“Hello, is this Chiho? Is something wrong?”

As the phone at home displayed the telephone number, her mother knew almost immediately that it was a call from Chiho.

Chiho suppressed her accelerating heartbeat and breathed in hard.

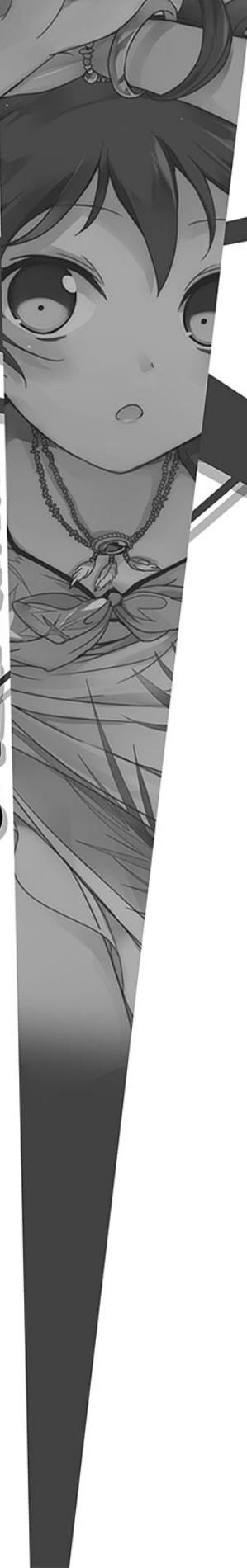
“Mum.....”

“What is it?”

“I want to see the Choshi Electric Railway. Can I find a day and go with Yusa-san and Suzuno-san?”

Chapter 2: The Hero helps the Demon King, reforming the business

勇者、魔王の職場の大改造に協力する



“Wow! What a cute carriage!”

Chiho let out an exclamation at the terminal station of the JR Matsumoto line – Choshi station.

The group had left from Sasazuka, and transferred trains (which they were not used to) at Shinjuku, Kinshicho and Chiba station. Then they boarded the train that went onto the Matsumoto line at Chiba. The whole journey took a bit more than three hours.

The platform of Choshi’s railway which ran on electricity was located at a quiet corner of Choshi’s JR line. The train that entered the station had an appearance that Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara had never seen before.

To demons who have resided in Japan for slightly less than 2 years, a subway was a transport system made of stainless steel carriages that have been joined together and have 4 doors with long benches.

But the ‘subway’ before them completely toppled the strong impression of the city’s subways that these demons had.

The train had ignored all laws of aerodynamics. The bottom half of its long rectangular body was painted a dark red while the top half was painted an old-fashioned black; And its only round headlight was fitted on the center of the top of the train. There was only one carriage but its sound echoed heavily when it moved.

In comparison, the stainless steel train looked like something from the future.

Honestly, the train before them looked very old. It moved slowly into the platform and let out a heavy metallic sound as it braked.

“Is this really a train?”

Urushihara, who had nothing nice to say, received Chiho’s condescending look when he opened his mouth.

Although this railway, which was different from what Maou was used to, made him blank out for a moment, but he quickly started to be aware of the hustle and bustle that was going on around him.

Everyone who was present was smiling at the old fashioned train that was unusual even to Maou.

Simple, nostalgic and full of antiquity, it was worth it to come here and so on, the place was filled with exclamations of joy and wonder.

Every person took out their digital camera or mobile phone and started snapping pictures of the train.

“Eh, I guess all of you won’t be able to understand this kind of nostalgia.”

“.....You spent almost as long as we did in Japan and you have the cheek to say this kind of things.”

Maou turned his head unhappily when he heard the laughter from behind him.

Before him, was Emilia carrying Alas=Ramus and Suzuno who was holding an umbrella.

“Yeah, this is the Choshi electric train model 1001. It started operation in year 1950. Based on the earliest research that I did, during that time, the whole of Japan was using this kind of train.”

Suzuno explained while looking at the free booklet that was distributed in the station.

Maou had always wondered what Suzuno actually researched about the last time and where she got the information from.

“Speaking of which, where are we supposed to buy the tickets?”

The platform for the Choshi train is connected to the platform for the JR line yet there was no mechanical gate for the transfer of trains; there was only a small IC card reader on the way.

But for Maou and others who travelled from Shinjuku, they only bought tickets from the JR window.

“Erhm, it seems as though you need to get them from the station employee in the train or on the platform. That gentleman over there is holding something that looks like a ticket clipper, I guess we can purchase the tickets from him.”

“It’s...manual?!”

“What’s there to be surprised about? Even Shinjuku, Ikebukuro and Shinagawa used manual ticket purchase and checking a few decades ago.”

Suzuno seemed especially energetic when introducing Japan of the past, especially of the Showa era.

When she started researching on the situation of this society, it seemed, unfortunately, that she was stuck at the era where the terminal stations were using manual ticket sales. It was too bad the only member of the group who was a Japanese person, Chiho, was born in the Heisei era.

Chiho only had the general level of understanding of the current situation. Of course, Maou and Emi were even worse off.

“But there is an IC card reader over there, why would they use such an inconvenient and troublesome method on purpose....”

“You idiot. That inconvenience and trouble is the selling point.”

“What?”

Leaving a confused Maou behind, Emi and Alas=Ramus headed towards the station employee.

“To Inubo, a ticket for one adult and one child...ah, I want to keep the ticket...”

According to the explanation from the other person, infants and babies do not need a ticket, but Alas=Ramus was staring at the old bag of the station employee with great eagerness.

Alas=Ramus happily accepted the ticket with the “checked” chop and tightly held it in her hands.

“Thank kwew!”

Alas=Ramus’s gleeful look brought a smile onto the station employee’s face.

“In a way, it’s something like this. If we were using an automatic ticket dispenser, you wouldn’t see such a scene, would you?”

“.....Yeah, that’s true.”

After Suzuno’s comment, even though Maou could not understand it, he still agreed after seeing the smile on Alas=Ramus’s face.

Ashiya followed Emi and bought a ticket as well, while Chiho was busy snapping photos of the train with her digital camera. And Urushihara, who could not bear the summer’s heat, weakly collapsed on the bench in the station.

“By the way.....I never thought that all of you would follow us all the way here.”

Maou shrugged and looked towards Suzuno. Suzuno, who was holding an umbrella above her head, smiled in a practiced manner and replied:

“I already said it a few dozen times already. We did not follow you. Our travel destination just happened to be the same.”

There’s a limit to trying to be deceiving.

This happened a few hours ago when Maou and group were setting off from Sasazuka.

Chiho suddenly showed up at Sasazuka station at eight in the morning, breathless.

At first, Maou thought she was there to see them off. When he saw that Chiho was carrying a large bag, he then guessed that she just happened to, like them, have some business that required her to travel.

By common sense, no matter how much Chiho's parents trusted Maou, there is no way they would let their second year high school daughter go with him to a place where they had to stay at a men's only work place.

Therefore, Maou never thought that there was any chance that Chiho's destination was Choshi.

“Is Chi-chan heading out as well? We'll be going the same way till Shinjuku.”

“Nope, we'll be travelling together even after that.”

Chiho replied cheerfully while entering the station with Maou through the automatic gate.

Thirty seconds later, Maou knew the reason why Chiho was happy.

“Good morning Chiho-chan. What's with those three behind you?”

“Chiho-dono, we have been waiting for a while. You met the Demon King and group? What a coincidence.”

“Papa! Chi-nee chan!”

Emi, Suzuno and Alas=Ramus were sitting on a bench at the platform for the train heading from Sasazuka to Shinjuku.

Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara stared and gaped in surprise, and were momentarily silenced.

As the demon trio had left early in the morning, they did not greet their neighbor, Suzuno.

No matter what it was, Emi and Suzuno probably planned to wait at the station earlier. And they only greeted Chiho and pretended to coincidentally meet Maou and gang as they wanted to tease the three demons.

There was a luggage with wheels in front of the two. That's right, these two were definitely planning to follow along.

“It's not just to Shinjuku, we'll be on the same route all the way to Choshi. Don't worry, I definitely got my mother's permission.”

Chiho declared proudly as though she was announcing the answer.

The three demons were still gaping with their mouths wide open. There was no way that any parent in existence would agree to this kind of thing.

“Did you misunderstand something?”

Emi, who was sitting on the bench, grinned at the confused trio.

“Although the destination is also Choshi, Chiho is not going with all of you, she’s coming with us.”

“.....What in the world....”

Even if one wants to twist the story, there’s a limit to it.

“By the way, how about your jobs? You’re not planning to stay at Choshi for two weeks, are you?”

When Maou asked that, Emi answered in a fluent manner:

“Because Bell is staying with me , I applied for leave earlier. What do you mean by two weeks? The three of us girls just plan to take a look at the railway. What makes you think that we will stay for so long? Don’t tell me you’re guilty about something?”

Emi said in a scheming manner. Though Maou glared unhappily at Emi---

“Papa, Papa, I have something to say!”

Upon seeing an excited Alas=Ramus, he couldn’t react.

“We are going to the beach at Chiba!”

At that moment, Maou understood what was going on and he bowed his head weakly.

From then, roughly one hour passed.....

Maou, Chiho and the rest set off from Sasazuka station, changed to the Matsumoto line while they had a good view of the Tokyo Skytree from Kinshicho station then they reached the terminal station at Chiba. While they waited for the train towards Choshi from the Matsumoto line, they had a train bento on the platform. Then the whole gang took the train to Choshi, when they were approaching Asahi station which was near their destination -----

“Chi-nee chan, a windmill! Windmill!”

Alas=Ramus was sitting on Chiho’s lap.

Including Emi and Suzuno, the ladies occupying the four-seater were obviously snacking. Meanwhile the three demons were seated on another four seater across the aisle. There was a large and stocky salary man who planted himself in the fourth seat, so whether it was physically or mentally, they felt very uncomfortable.

As they were nearing Choshi, a large power facility which harnessed the wind's energy through windmills appeared and Alas=Ramus who was looking at the scenery became very excited.

“Alas=Ramus-chan is amazing. You know what a windmill is.”

“Hee hee, I know.”

As the windmills slowly left Alas=Ramu's sight, an announcement that they are reaching the terminal station Choshi rang throughout the carriage, informing the passengers to prepare to alight.

On the platform of Choshi station, Maou stared at Suzuno in a judging manner and said:

“Whether or not Chi-chan originally had interest in this train track, it's about time you all came clean on what your purpose is. Anyway, I bet both are you are planning to use Chiho as an excuse to pester us.”

On the contrary, Suzuno paid no heed to Maou and went straight to the point.

“That’s true. Who knows what kind of schemes you will pull off when you leave our sight. Do not think that you will be able to evade our watch. Hopefully, you can do some civil activities even when you are so far away from Sasazuka.”

“You bastard, I am the kindest and most honest Demon King in the whole of Japan.”

“But you are still the Demon King.”

That’s true, there was no room for argument.

“You’re actually expecting the Demon King to make judgments that aligns with my moral conscience, are you misunderstanding something here?”

“Hmph. I already said it a dozen times already, it just so happens that our travel destination is the same. Alright, pay no attention to us, head to your work place.”

“Listen to me....”

No matter how you think about it, Suzuno and the others are going to follow them to the beach house.

“Demon King-sama, I bought the train tickets.”

That moment, Ashiya bought the tickets and returned. Meanwhile, Urushihara slowly made his way up the train and once more collapsed on the seats in the vehicle. It was expected that the Hero and her group would still be following them, but considering that she still has to work, Emi who is the greatest threat should not be able to stay for too long.

Living their daily lives under the careful watch of the Hero, the demons have even taken into account the Hero’s work schedule; they still have some future as demons.

“.....this...doesn’t really look like a train ticket.”

Ashiya passed Maou a flimsy piece of paper. It had the station names of the Choshi line and looked like it can be easily torn apart with bare hands. It was then-----

“Young men, is this your first time taking the Choshi rail?

“Eh?”

Maou jumped because someone suddenly struck a conversation with him.

Next to Maou was an old lady wearing a sun hat and carrying many bags. Who knew when she appeared.

“You are shocked by its ancient appearance right? Young people aren’t that used to these kinds of things.”

“Ah, uh, about that....”

Though the lady was talking very familiarly to Maou, Maou completely did not know her, so he did not know how to respond.

“But, this is the most popular colour. As this place gets trains of various shapes and sizes from many different places, this place has many different models. And the most popular one among the lot is this black and red carriage, how nostalgic.”

“Nostalgic...is it?”

“We see it every day so we are used to it, but it is really rare to see such an old train in operation you know. The electric 1001 model has been running since its completion in the 1950s.”

The old lady said proudly as though she was praising her own family member.

“Even though it ran into quite a few tight pinches, but as young people like all of you come here and due to their perseverance, these trains got more loved by the masses. I really thank all of you.”

Even though Maou and the rest did not do anything, not to mention that his age is a few times more than the old lady’s, since the other party is already happily lost in her memories, Maou decided not to interrupt her and just mumbled some form of agreement.

“Are you boys here for sightseeing? Are you going to Inubo?”

“Ah, that’s right. But rather than sightseeing....”

“Over at Inubo, the sight of the sun rising from the horizon is very beautiful. Even though I see it every day, I still feel that my heart is being cleansed by that sight all the time. Ne, once you become old, you start getting up earlier.”

“Yeah.....”

Speaking of which, Ooguro Amane seemed to have mentioned that they can head to Kimihagama from Inubo, and that there is the earliest place in Kanto to see the sunrise.

“Ah, when you talk about Inubo, you would think about the nure-senbei (T/N: moist rice crackers). When you get there, do try some. They’re really delicious.

From then on, the old lady continued chatting with Maou until it was time for the train to depart. As such, Maou also avoided Suzuno's badgering.

Although Maou felt a bit troubled in the beginning, he heard a lot of sightseeing information from the old lady regarding the Choshi railway. Chiho and Emi also joined the conversation half-way through, even if they were strangers, they still hit off quite well.

Once it was time to set off, the Choshi rail 1001 which carried the Demon King and other humans started to slowly move forward.

Even though the density of people in the carriage was higher than that of the Mastsumoto line, Maou could still see the view in front of the driver from where he was sitting.

“Wow! It’s a wooden tunnel!”

Chiho greeted the scene with a cheer.

“This....feels like we are having an adventure.”

“Uh-huh....”

Ashiya and Urushihara could not resist gasping in awe themselves.

Under the rays of the summer sun, the tram moved onto the green tracks decorated by the mountains and forests.

The summer flowers were blooming by the sides of the metal railway, even though the carriage appeared old, the sound of the engine inside the carriage produced a sound and power that made it worthy of the name of a steel horse carriage.

The small path had a simple tram line and wooden electric poles installed.

For Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara who only knew about the written records, this was a first for them to experience a “period feel”. (T/N: experiencing something from the past)

“It really has a feeling, not bad at all.”

The old lady was all smiles and nodded in agreement to Ashiya’s opinion.

“Like I said!”

Later, the old lady alighted at an empty station called Nishi-ashikajima.

“We didn’t even ask for her name.”

Ashiya mumbled softly after the train left Nishi-ashikajima.

“That’s alright, that’s what we call a chance meeting. For us, that granny is like a period feel, even though we come into contact with it, we can’t keep it.”

“...What are you saying. Did the heat scramble your brains?”

Emi said something rude and Alas=Ramus who was being carried by her stared motionlessly at the driver’s seat. Maou replied without being especially angry:

“Right. About my ambitions to conquer the world, I had some new ideas.”

“Oh, is that so. You finally decided to give up and live the rest of your life in Japan?”

It was obvious that Maou was trying to change the topic so Emi did not answer him seriously. Maou decided to remain silent afterward and Emi felt that there was no need to continue in this line of conversation.

After the train went past Nishi-ashikajima, Ashikajima and Kimigahama, Maou and group finally arrived at the eastern most location of the Kanto region—Inubo.

“Looks like some effort has been put into this station.”

Ashiya, who was the first to alight carrying the luggage, said while wiping sweat from his brow.

The outer walls of Inubosaki station were adorned with Southern European style white tiles and since this was a tourist location, there was also a station employee present.

After Maou alighted, the train began making its way to the terminal station over the mountains. Maou and the rest ignored the tourists who were taking photos of the train and walked into the train station. Even though it was bright and sunny and the tea coloured tiles in the train station seemed very cooling, there was a heavy atmosphere floating around.

The group entered the train station with other tourists and they quickly noticed a woman roasting rice crackers in the shopping area on the right hand side.

“That, that’s the nure-senbei that the granny from just now was talking about right?”

“That’s it! The savior of the Choshi rail!”

When Maou asked the question, Chiho quickly answered, flustered, and they rushed inside.

“Mama, that, what’s that?”

Emi put Alas=Ramus on the station’s bench and started wiping sweat from her using a handkerchief. She looked in the direction that Chiho was speeding towards and replied:

“It’s Nure-senbei, senbei. Does Alas=Ramus like it?”

“Senbei!”

Alas=Ramus suddenly left Emi at the mention of “senbei” and ran towards the direction of Maou and Chiho.

“Ah, hey, Alas=Ramus, wait a minute, you’ll fall down!”

“Papa, Chi-nee chan. Senbei! I want to eat senbei!”

“Eh? Alas=Rmaus, does mama usually buy senbei for you? Oi, it’s a bit too soon to let her eat senbei, isn’t it?”

Maou’s last question was directed at Emi.

“It's salad rice crackers that are specially made for small children. She knows how to bite then by herself, this kind of standard is no problem at all.”

“I wonder if Alas=Ramus-chan is able to eat Nure-senbei? Ah, but this might ruin her appetite. How about sharing half with onee-chan?”

Chiho squatted down and asked. Alas=Ramus raised both hands and started cheering:

“Share half!”

She energetically expressed her desire to eat.

“We really can't do anything about you. Ah, don't bother, Chi-chan, Emi will pay for it.”

“Aren't you supposed to say “I'll pay for it”?”

Emi frowned at Maou who was so stingy that he had to use “Mama's” money to make Alas=Ramus happy. But Ashiya looked at the whole scene with a gloomy expression on his face.

“.....Demon-King-sama! Please inform the other party that we are here.”

Ashiya advised Maou and the rest who are completely in a sightseeing mood.

“Ah, that’s right. Sorry, sorry.”

Maou replied awkwardly, took out his phone and walked towards the large space outside the train station.

Emi stood in front of the cashier counter in the store and watched Maou walk out of the station from the corner of her eye—

“Then, Chiho-chan, can we talk for a bit?”

Then she called Chiho’s name softly and pulled her to the corner of the train station.

“You really surprised me yesterday. I never thought your mother would agree to this.”

“....sorry, for calling you out of the blue.”

Chiho’s mother unexpectedly readily agreed to a request that can only be described as odd, that being allowing her to see the Choshi railway. Even though Chiho asked that she discuss the conditions with her companions, Emi and Suzuno, Emi was very shocked that the other party would so generously let Chiho go to Choshi.

“For us, this allows us to watch the Demon King as well as take care of you safety. Also.....”

Emi smiled and turned towards Suzuno.

“Chiho-dono, your honourable mother wants us to pass a message to you.”

“Eh?”

Suzuno took out a note from her luggage.

“As long as you choose to reside in this hotel as suggested by your honorable mother, and one of us must contact her at specified times, then you are allowed to stay here for three days and two nights.”

“Eh? Eh? Eh?”

Once Chiho heard that, she almost dropped the evenly split nure-senbei that she was going to share with Alas-Ramus.

“This way, you can relax and see if they are working well right?”

“Wh, why...”

Initially, Chiho was determined to be satisfied with just a one day trip and does fully intend to do so. Basically, why would her own mother ask Emi and Suzuno to pass the message?

“Since we will be travelling with Chiho-dono, then we must let your honorable mother have a way to contact us right? After informing her of a way to contact us, she called us using the phone on her own accord.

(Since Chiho said that, I believe that she must have some basis. Chiho usually trusts Yusa-san and Suzuno-san a lot, and treat both of you as very important people. Maybe it is my own stubbornness, but in order to eliminate Chiho's insecurity, may I request that both of you help her....)

From Emi's point of view, she felt extremely guilty for always dragging Chiho into Ente Isla related affairs so she decided that she might as well agree to Riho's request. Subsequently, the two of them even argued for a while on who is the one to foot the bill for the 3-person stay at the hotel.

Of course Chiho is unable to tell her mother about the situation in Ente Isla. But even if it's just something that “must have some basis”, Riho decided to completely believe her.

Emi had met Riho before and did not feel that she was being stubborn. Instead, what Riho had said just reinforced the fact that this mother-daughter relationship was a very wholesome one.

Emi just found out about the existence of her mother and knows that the other party is not a human and vanished very suddenly. This made Emi feel slightly envious about the relationship between Chiho and her mother.

“Eh, simply put, your honorable mother has her complete faith in you and to help buy some local goods from Choshi and braised mackerel for your honorable father who has been left out of this discussion as goodwill. Don’t worry, we will go with you to get them.”

“....Mom....I was really defeated by her.”

Chiho lowered her head, her eyes brimming with tears.

“Then, what's the reason that Chiho-dono is trying so hard? It shouldn't be that you are only worried that Lucifer will cause all of them to get fired? If that is so, you would have made your decision once you finished watching the video.”

After sniffling, Chiho put Alas=Ramus on the ground.

“.....Actually yesterday, I heard from Sariel-san. Gabriel-san has not given up on taking away Alas=Ramus-chan.”

Emi and Suzuno's expressions showed a change when they suddenly heard Gabriel's name.

“Whether it is Maou-san, Yusa-san or Alas=Ramus-chan, all of you met with a few dangerous situations, but as you were all not fighting alone, in the end, you all managed to barely pull through right? Of course, I’m not asking you to forgive what Maou-san did at Ente Isla. But if you both encounter another dangerous situation, I think it would be safer if you were all together, however....Yusa-san seems to be very happy that Maou-san is going on a faraway trip.”

“Ah....”

Emi nodded her head without thinking.

The two had fought side by side the previous few times on the basis that they that was the only method they had. Even though Emi got out of a mess a few times due to Maou, Ashiya or Urushihara’s presence, but this does not mean that Emi herself is enthusiastic about asking them for help.

As Maou and group are only going to the home of their mysterious landlady’s, Shiba Miki’s, relative, so Emi did not think there was any special need to follow them. But for Chiho who did not know the landlady, she felt that Emi’s attitude was strange.

“Whether it is Maou-san or Yusa-san, or Suzuno san, Ashiya-san even Urushihara san. Everyone stayed at Sasazuka....by my side due to a series of small coincidences. So as long as one of these factors becomes unbalanced and everyone disappears, I’ll feel really frightened. Although, this is probably

beyond my capabilities, but as long as I try harder a bit, maybe I can maintain this balance....”

Chiho looked at Ashiya and Urushihara who were sitting on a station bench a distance away, holding something like an ice-cream box and she continued saying:

“Maybe one day, you would need to return to Ente Isla to settle things once and for all....But with this as a goal, just when it is required, I hope that all of you can work together.”

For Chiho, she definitely did not come here just because of her crush on Maou.

“I’m not sure how much awareness of the situation that Maou-san has, but Sariel san did say that he ‘knows the location of both Yusa-san and the holy sword.’ This means that the person who is after Yusa-san already has a grasp of where you are going to go. If Gabriel-san takes action when Maou-san is in Choshi.....”

Even though Emi took down Gabriel in a one-on-one battle, no one can be sure that he is still going to challenge her alone again.

What Chiho said and all the things that she has seen are true.

Even if they are the Hero and the Demon King, but whether it was Emi or Maou, they were unable to settle the troubles they had in Japan with their own power.

On the contrary, because they were too confident with their own strength, when they were not aware, they actually dragged Chiho and Rika, for starters, and other Japanese citizens into trouble even more times.

“.....Chiho-dono, you are a very smart lady.”

Suzuno said softly in admiration.

“No matter what kind of situation it would become, Emilia’s final goal is the settle things with the Demon King once and for all. And regardless of which side disappears in Japan, this goal may become unattainable. For this important goal, do not lose sight of who is the real enemy right now...Chiho-dono, is this what you mean?”

Chiho nodded slightly.

Last time, Suzuno also wrongly judged who the real enemy was and she stood at the position of needing to eliminate the peaceful individuals who were in the way. She was deeply disgusted by the methods of elimination and was suffering mentally, the whole time screaming to herself “who exactly is the real enemy here.”

Now the enemy that Suzno and Emilia need to defeat is the Demon King, yet at the same, it is not the Demon King.

It was someone who is hidden in the human world under the guise of the servant of justice.

Not only does the other party possess greater power than the Hero or the Demon King, he also has a following that does not extend their hands to help the human world in times of crisis.

“I hope that everyone can get along harmoniously, this is a personal stubborn request from someone who does not understand Ente Isla....But, not that Alas=Ramus chan is around, Alas=Ramus=chan who everyone really really loves with all their heart, I really not want anything that would make her sad to happen.”

“The senbei is really nice, ne?”

Alas=Ramus's innocent reply made Chiho smile a bit.

“Chiho-chan.”

“Yes...Uwah!”

Emi hugged Chiho gently.

“No wonder your mother trusts you so much. You were born in such a peaceful country, how did you ever develop such strong determination.”

As though letting Chiho be less worried, Emi lightly patted her back.

“Alright. We will go according to what you want. After all, I treasure this child a lot as well.”

After releasing Chiho, Emi put her hand on Alas=Ramus'ss head who was right next to her feet.

“But there is one point that I hope you will not misunderstand. I do not have any intention of harmoniously getting along with the Demon King or being with him or being close to him.”

Emi pointed forcefully at Maou who was perspiring while making a phone call outside.

“I promise you, if there really comes to a situation where I have ab-----solutely no way of handling myself, and I am very sure that I cannot come up with any plan, let's not talk about asking that bastard for help, I will completely make use of him. And after making use of him, I'll get rid of him on garbage recycling day.”

Emi made that announcement dramatically and this made Chiho lower her head while smiling broadly. Chiho said:

“Sorry and thank you.”

“Anyway, while we are at Inubo for three days and two nights to observe the situation, we might as well relax a bit.”

“That’s right. Since we took the trouble to come here, if we continue to observe the demons’ painfully ordinary life, it’s far too boring.”

Suzuno smiled bitterly and this broke the nervous tension that was present.

At that moment, Maou just happened to return from outside the station and gave a big sigh due to the large difference in temperature between the inside and outside of the station.

Maou who had no idea about the deep discussion between the girls ----

“AH! What good stuff are you eating!”

Once he saw Ashiya and Urushihara eating ice-cream, he loudly accused the two of them.

“Nure-senbei ice cream. It’s pretty delicious.”

“Because we’re terribly curious about the taste so we couldn’t resist....Demon King-sama, do you want some?”

Just as one was thinking why these two demons did not notice the exchange between Emi and the rest, it seems as thought they were unable to stand the heat and focused on eating ice-cream.

“Of course!”

Maou grabbed some loose change and rushed into the shop. Emi saw the situation and—

“Once I think that I actually have to borrow on the strength of a demon who loses to the temptation of nure-senbei to protect myself, my feelings become very complicated.”

Emi frowned, unsatisfied.

“But I heard that the nure-senbei ice cream tastes really nice, yeah? It’s the popular product in the summer it seems.”

“Chiho-dono, that is not the main point here.”

When Maou finished purchasing the ice cream and was enjoying the extraordinary texture –

“....I wonder what kind of person the other party is, she’s called Ooguro-san right?”

Something that Urushihara said off-handedly caused Maou and Ashiya to tense up at the same time.

“You bastard. I was trying really hard not to think about it. Stop spouting nonsense.”

“Because it’s really scary! That person is the neice of the person in ‘that photo’!”

“Guh, but judging from the voice over the phone, it sounds like a young female?”

“No matter what kind of development we face next, we have no way to escape now. We just have to try our best and leave everything to fate.”

“We haven’t even seen our work location, what kind of effort do you want to put in.....”

Just then, Maou’s phone rang.

The three of them could not help but glance at each other. Maou waited a moment before answering the phone.

“Hi.”

“Ah, Maou-san? I’m in front of the station, it’s a white van.”

The groups were finally going to meet.

In order to prepare for whatever situation they might meet later on, the three great demons took a deep breath and psyched themselves up before heading to the front of Inubo station, the sun-lit plaza.

Chiho and the other two also followed them to the front of the train station, the tiled plaza. (T/N: This line sounds weird in chinese too.)

There was a van that was long past its white colouring and has now turned a cream colour, it looked really old and seemed like the long van used for business.

When the group decided to get closer, the person in the driver's seat seemed to have noticed them. That person unbuckled the seat belt and left the driver's seat.

After that person appeared under the sunlight, Maou, Ashiya, Urushihara and even Emi were startled.

“Maou-san?”

“Ah, um, yeah. Uh, you are Ooguro-san?”

“That's right, thank you for travelling all the way here. Welcome to Inubo!”

Simply put, the other person was a beautiful woman.

She appeared to be in her late twenties.

Her hair was tied up in a careless ponytail and she was wearing a black t-shirt with an old green apron. The bottom half of her attire consisted of a torn pair of jeans and sandals. Although her attire was very casual, one could tell that she had a body comparable to Kisaki's.

On her make-up free face was a pair of sharp eyebrows and eyes which complemented her healthy brown skin; this even gave the impression of a seasoned warrior.

Is this lady really that landlady's niece?

Other than the fact that they are both female vertebrates, there is no common point with Shiba Miki.

“I guess you feel that we don't really resemble each other right?”

Probably because he blanked out for too long, Ooguro Amane smiled at Maou seeing if she is right. Maou snapped back to reality ---

“Uh....”

For a moment, he was unsure whether to shake or nod his head.

Maou was troubled on whether it is appropriate to say that a lady at her prime age looks like “that landlady”.

“Ahaha! Sorry sorry. From Maou-san’s standpoint, either answer must be difficult.”

“Ye, yeah....”

“Actually Miki-obaachan looks like me without makeup. Her photo when she was younger looks exactly like me.”

If what this lady said was a fact, then the flow of time is indeed a very cruel thing.

Honestly speaking, rather than imagining what the landlady looks like when she is younger and without makeup, it will be much easier to imagine what the skin colour of the dinosaurs which became extinct 65 million years ago actually were.

“Anyway, I am the temporary shop manager for the beach house ‘Ooguro-ya’, Ooguro Amane, nice to meet you.”

“Ah, sure. Um, I’m Maou Sadao.”

“I’m Ashiya Shiro. We will be in your care.”

“....Urushihara Hanzo.”

After Maou introduced himself, Ashiya also gave a bow with a straight back. Compared to that, Urushihara, who had been excited before, said his name softly with a guarded expression.

“Ashiya-san and Urushihara-san huh.....then again.....”

Ooguro looked at the female group behind Maou and the rest with a surprised expression.

“I feel that, it seems to be more lively than what I heard earlier.”

“Uh, erhm, the ones who will be in your care is just us three guys, the rest only came over on their own accord.....that, that’s right, Emi and Suzuno, how long do you plan to follow us for!”

If the job was blown because the large number of people caused the other party too much trouble, it’ll be bad. Compared to Maou, who was frantically trying to explain----

“I am Maou-san’s junior, Sasaki Chiho! Because I want to see the workplace of Maou-san and the rest, I took the chance to come over for a holiday!”

After restraining Maou, Chiho honestly explained the reason she came here and bowed.

“Hey, Chi-chan. Were you listening to me?”

“I’m Kamazuki Suzuno. I’m their.....erhm, neighbor.”

“My last name is Yusa, this child is Alas=Ramus.”



Suzuno and Emi also ignored Maou, and introduced themselves respectively.

Maou thought that the both of them would deny Chiho's motive, but unexpectedly, they showed no signs of doing so.

By the way, the six people already decided that when they are introducing Alas=Ramus to other people, there will be no need to use an alternate name to deceive them. After all, even if they use names like Maou and Emi, the person herself is unable to understand.

In addition, Alas=Ramus's appearance is also very different from the Japanese, so even if they used this name directly, no one would be suspicious.

“Oh my, you really bought over different kinds of beautiful ladies. Then who are the people who are already married?”

Ooguro appeared not to mind these rude ladies, but once she asked, Urushihara pointed at Maou, Chiho and Suzuno pointed at Emi, and as for Ashiya, he turned to look at a completely random direction.

““Hey!!””

Maou and Emi protested strongly at the same time.

“Making things convenient for acquaintances is the duty of the residents and workers in tourist areas. Since you came all the way here, why don't you come over to the store and let us serve you before it opens? As long as you

don't leave my line of sight, you can go for a swim, I will tell you about the fun spots in Choshi, in addition.....”

Ooguro gave a sideways glance at Emi.

“A normal person will definitely care about the workplace of her husband. You're so mean, Maou-san, even though you have such a beautiful wife, you actually said you were single over the phone!”

“I, I already said that things aren't like that!”

Considering her mission and Chiho's situation, even though Emi did want to understand Maou's workplace, she could not tolerate being seen as Maou's wife.

Emi denied it from the bottom of her heart, but Ooguro ignored her totally.

Besides Urushihara, everyone couldn't help but look towards Emi and Chiho, but only Emi looked unhappy, on the other hand, Chiho was showing a very normal smile.

“Sigh, it's not interesting standing and talking in such hot weather, let's get on the van. You ladies can come along too. Let me take the children's seat out first.”

Ooguro took a children's seat up from the boot and deftly put it on the front passenger seat, as if she knew from the beginning that a child was going to come.

The six people looked at each other thoughtfully as they sat into the large minivan.

As Alas-Ramus needed to sit in the front passenger seat, the three ladies took up the three person seat in the second row. As for the remaining three guys, they squeezed behind them.

“Now, because there is a baby, let's set off by driving safely!”

Ooguro announced this after placing everyone's luggage into the trunk, the old motor started up the engine and the van, without any suspension system left the Inubo Station plaza, heading for the main road.

Advertisements showing the lodging facilities appeared one after another. Even though Maou and the rest have not seen the sea before coming to Chiba, but like what Ooguro said, the scenery in front of them expanded less than five minutes later.

The instant they drove into the coastal road, the Pacific Ocean suddenly appeared on their right side.

“Wow!”

Chiho let out a cheer.

“This is the first time I’ve seen the sea here.....I never thought it would be so blue.”

Emi mumbled softly and sighed. The shining sky, and the wide expanse of Pacific Ocean in front of them was displaying the azure blue scenery it was proud of, even for Emi, who travelled the whole of Ente Isla, she had never seen this kind of scenery.

“Even in our village, it’s hard to see such pure and azure beautiful scenery.”

Suzuno said softly with feeling.

When Emi and Suzuno exclaimed this, they still paid attention to Ooguro’s actions.

“Mama, it’s so blue! That’s so much blue! There’s a lot of ‘Chesed’!”

However, because Alas=Ramus was very excited from not seeing this kind of scenery before, she said the name of the ‘Sephirah’ which had the colour of blue.

Maou instantly shuddered, but Ooguro, who did not know anything about these matters, would definitely not know what that meant.

“This is the coast of Kimigahama. Further behind to the right, that white building on the cape is Inubosaki Lighthouse.”

The group looked in the direction Ooguro described, and discovered the white lighthouse situated on top of a steep cliff, like a large organism staring at the ocean with the blue sky as its background.

“Eh, the one in front of the cape is.....”

“Oh, did you see it? That’s right, that is the Ooguro-ya.”

This wide expanse of coast was called Kimigahama coast, and that building was right in the centre of the coast.

It was a building which looked like a normal residential bungalow.

Once Maou identified that building, Ooguro left the road and turned into a plaza which looked like a beach carpark.

“There seems to be lesser people than I imagined.”

Ashiya enquired this as he looked outside.

Even though Ooguro said that the work would be busy, but the cars in the carpark were few in number.

To Maou, who had seen pictures of seawater baths in the tourist magazines in the bookstores and thought that seawater baths are places with crowds of people, this scene dampened Maou's spirits.

Ooguro released her seatbelt and turned off the engine.

“Because the seawater baths only open tomorrow. There should only be surfers here.”

For Maou, who did not know much about the operations of seawater baths, he accepted it without thinking too much about it.

“Tomorrow.....huh?”

But Chiho seemed to be hung up on something, and placing her hand against her forehead, she gazed at the faraway surface of the ocean.

“Surfers.....ah, it's true. On the surface of the sea.....”

However, as Chiho looked out towards the beach from the window, she felt some uncertainty as she saw something looming in the waves.

“Sasaki-san? Is something wrong?”

With Ashiya's concerned voice, that short lived strange feeling merged within the swirl of her thoughts.

“.....no, it’s nothing.”

Chiho, who could not identify what was amiss in the end, could only temporarily give up thinking about this strange feeling.

“This is popular strolling route, before the seawater baths open, people frequently come here to see the lighthouse or the sunrise.”

So that explains it, now that it was mentioned, they did occasionally see people bringing their dogs on a walk or lying on a plastic sheet and suntanning on their way here.

“Anyway, let’s put down the luggage first. Let me go to the lodge and help you explain a bit about the place.”

Maou and the others walked towards the bungalow they saw just now by following the slightly sloped coast.

The group got off the van in their own time, and following behind Ooguro, they stopped in front of an old wooden door behind the building.

“Even though there’s nothing else besides futons, you can relax a little after work.”

Ooguro opened the door after saying this, and after inspecting the inside of the house, Maou, Ashiya, Suzuno and Urushihara stared, totally stunned.

“.....It feels like, the environment here is better than our home?”

It wasn't surprising for Urushihara to voice everyone's opinion.

The space here was about the size of 8 tatami mats. Not only did it have a wall closet, there was a similar sized kitchen at the back of the room. Even if the room was filled with sunlight coming in from the large windows, it was still very cool inside the room.

“I, really want to keep staying in here.”

Urushihara's gaze was locked on a certain spot on the ceiling.

An air conditioner.

There was an air conditioner in the room.

Even though it was an old model, it was definitely an air conditioner which was outputting cool air.

“Since we're near the ocean, the tatami will definitely bulge because of the humidity no matter what, I hope you can tolerate that point.”

In front of the air conditioner, this small issue was nothing to the three demons.

Even though this place basically only had futons, but the Demon Fortress didn't even have any futons.

Tempted by the living environment, Maou even forgot for a moment that he needed to go back to MgRonalds.

“But, I think this place would probably be very cold in winter.”

But with Ashiya's rebuttal of Urushihara, Maou slowly regained his senses.

That's right, the beach house is a seasonal operation. After the summer, they would be unable to work here.

“As long as all of you like it. I will go back to my own house at night, so please lock up the doors and windows at night.”

Actually leaving the lodgers who have just arrived and going home without any worries, it looked like Maou and the rest were trusted by this shop manager. At the same time, it also shows how much the other party trusted their landlady, Miki.

“So, even though I feel bad troubling all of you when you just arrived, but can you come to the front after settling your luggage? Work is going to start soon.”

Amongst those present, only Urushihara frowned at the mention of work, and a certain person, being more sensitive than anyone else, sensed the change in him.

“Leave the luggage to me. Do your best at work, everyone.”

Chiho showed a smile like the sun, and took the luggage from Ashiya’s hands in a half forceful manner, and turned around, giving Maou a look.

Faced with Chiho’s considerate actions, Maou nodded gratefully, and without any discussion beforehand, Ashiya and him, standing on Urushihara’s left and right, grabbed an arm each.

“Hey, wait wait! I didn’t say anything at all!”

Maou and Ashiya, with spectacular rapport, ignored Urushihara’s protests and forcefully dragged him away.

Ooguro didn’t say anything more, and lead the way to the beach directly opposite.

Emi, Alas=Ramus and Suzuno followed behind.

Even though Ooguro referred to that room as a ‘lodge’, but the roof ridges of the two buildings were still connected via a corridor, so it was connected to the back of the shop.

Just the action of stepping into a new workplace was enough to generate mixed feelings into anyone.

Maou and Ashiya also faced their new workplace with some degree of nervousness and anticipation.

However, the complicated feelings which the two people had dissolved once they saw the external appearance of the store.

“.....Eh?”

The place could only be described as causing a person to become speechless.

The beach house ‘Ooguro-ya’ is a wooden bungalow, and the space inside the store is considered spacious. It was about twice the size of Hirose Bicycle store after all the bicycles in the store were removed.

But the whole store had not been cleaned at all, and dust accumulated everywhere.

A straw roof protruded from an area near the beach, even though the cracks from the age gave people a nostalgic feeling, but the wooden bench underneath was really difficult to compliment.

Because the place on the other side with a row of thin wooden doors had a drainage system, it should be the showers. But the words ‘10 minutes 100 yen’, installed at an unknown time, had already rusted from the sea wind.

The only good thing was that the washroom in the store uses a flush system toilet bowl, but the old coin lockers really made people worry about whether they could still function normally.

The signage representing the store front was covered in rust because of the long term exposure to the wind, even if it could not be helped that the building structure itself was old, but the surface of the backless chairs were torn such that the sponge inside could be seen and various spots of discolouration can be seen on the bronze drink machine.

Next to the cashier counter within the store, there was an almost empty upright drink cooler. Only a few bottles of refreshing cola were placed inside, and made everything seem all the more empty. The only saving grace was the the metal plate for making fried noodles did not show any signs of rust.

Some cartoon characters from a few generations ago showed their smiles with the hanging floatation tubes and beachballs as a background, making everything look more lonesome.

No matter how much they didn't know about operating a business, they shouldn't have neglected the store until it became like this.

A store which would probably be closed down next year, this was Maou's first impression of the place.

This should be a store opened by Amane's father. If so, it made people suspect that if the lack of enthusiasm for running a business started from her father's generation.

In the hearts of everyone present, there was an uneasy storm which was hard to describe.

“This house is really dirty!”

Alas=Ramus childish babble innocently and accurately expressed everyone's feelings.

“Erhm.....Ooguro-san.”

Amane raised her thumb and answered Ashiya.

“Ashiya-kun, there's no need to be so restrained! Relax and just call me Amane-chan!”

From how they force people to address them with strange nicknames, Ashiya, who confirmed that this person was really blood related to the landlady, opened his mouth wearily,

“.....Amane-san, when is the seawater bath you mentioned earlier going to open?”

Ashiya asked simply. From his tone, it was clear that Ashiya haboured the same impression as Maou.

“Tomorrow!”

Amane answered energetically.

“Honestly, the situation right now is really extremely bad.”

“Why can she still be so happy at a time like this.....”

This store was so dirty that even Urushihara exclaimed about this.

“Oh my, I should have said before that I’m just a temporary shop manager. How should I put it, I’m not too sure how to run a business, and I still have another career.”

Even though they did not know what Amane’s career was, Maou thought that it was definitely not the service industry.

“Maou-san, Ashiya-san, the luggage is mostly settled.....wah!”

Even Chiho who arrived later was speechless, proving how bad the current situation was.

“Extremely.....don’t want.....extremely.....Mama, what does extremely don’t want mean?”

“.....It’s fine if Alas=Ramus doesn’t know this.”

Because of the whimsical misunderstandings which only children can do, Emi almost laughed involuntarily, but she still held it in and said what had to be said.

“I.....probably won’t buy things from this store.....”

This sentence can be said to be a lethal blow. Amane sighed heavily like she agreed.

Suzuno also harboured the same thoughts as Emi.

“De.....Sadao-san, what’s wrong?”

After that she sensed that Maou, who had not said anything after seeing the state of the store, seemed to be mumbling something.

“A place like this, would be very busy in summer.....customers will come.....monopoly status. If it’s 1000 yen multiplied by three, it’s still rather cheap.....so.....Amane-san.”

“Hmm yeah?”

Maou turned to Amane, who answered him, and asked,

“There’s one thing I want to confirm with you, if we earn a lot of money, do we get a reward?”

“Eh?”

Because they sensed that from unusual terms were mixed into Maou’s words, sounds of confusion were heard from everyone other than Maou.

“A, a lot of money, if you can earn money, I’ll be happy to give you a reward, but.....”

What angle of thinking must be employed to connect earning a lot of money to this scene. Like what Emi said, whether there will be any customers is already an uncertainty.

“Ashiya, Urushihara.”

“Yes?”

“Huh, what is it?”

Both of them raised their head because of Maou calling their name.

“Let’s work hard to earn a lot of money.”

Maou looked like he was filled with confidence.

“Amane-san, please let me try.”

“Ugh, I’m alright with it, but isn’t it pushing it a little to want to earn a lot of money?”

Hey, is this what any employer should be saying? Amane’s words almost made everyone present want to rebuke her.

“Oh my, even though it’s strange for me to say it, but like what your wife said, even I do not want to buy things here.”

“I already said I’m not his wife!”

Emi’s protests immediately disappeared into the sea wind.

“For things like goals, of course the higher it is the better. As long as the goal is set a little high, then ‘the result where the goal cannot be achieved’, would also be more fruitful compared to the result when the goal is lowered. In addition.....”

Maou said in a rather embarrassed manner.

“The appearance and the store and the variety of the products, in reality, it’s all about corporate image. Wearing wrinkled shirts and dirty suits in front of the customers and earning their money without providing them with complete service, it can only be called bad money, and cannot bring about more profit.”

Even though it seems like only this sentence sounded hesitant, but the conclusion is since they are going to serve customers, then they must do their best to make perfect preparations.

“.....even though you’re the Demon King.”

After Emi mumbled this angrily, she sighed heavily as if she had given up.

“.....so, what exactly do you plan to do?”

Once Emi asked this, Maou asked her in return with a frown,

“Why are you asking about that?”

It wasn’t strange for Maou to react that way. Excluding Ashiya or Urushihara, it was difficult to imagine that Emi, who did not get along with Maou, would take the initiative to ask that kind of question.

Emi’s face tightened like she had some regrets, and secretly glanced at Chiho from the corner of her eye.

“Noisy.....what I mean is that I’m willing to help. Please pay attention to those small things!”

And seeing Chiho smile, strangely made Emi feel angry.

Emi's unexpected suggestion shocked Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara.

“Wha, what happened, Yusa, did you eat something you shouldn't?”

It wasn't strange for Urushihara to say such a thing.

“I'm only doing you a favour so you can repay me in an equivalent manner later.”

Only Suzuno and Chiho knew the meaning behind that answer.

“Then, let me help too. Is that alright? Amane-san.”

Chiho proposed this, following Emi's actions.

“E, even Sasaki-san.....is this really alright?”

“Yes, actually I also hope that I can be of some help, and since Yusa-san wants to take part, how can I lose to her.”

Chiho's hands formed into fists and she nodded energetically to answer Ashiya's question.

“Unfortunately I didn’t bring any clothes which I can wear while helping with the work. If so, let me take care of Alas=Ramus. You wouldn’t want a toddler to help with work as well right.”

“Suzu-nee chan, are we going back?”

Suzuno, who accepted Alas=Ramus from Emi’s arms, shook her head.

“Papa and the rest are going to start working now. Let’s not bother them, Alas=Ramus can play in the sand with Suzu-nee chan.”

“Play in sand?”

It looks like Alas=Ramus did not understand what playing in the sand meant.

“That’s right, let’s build a castle on the sand.”

“Yeah!”

“I will be responsible for taking care of Alas=Ramus. Do your best everyone, to prevent the Demon King and the rest from being fired.”

After Suzuno said this to Emi and Chiho, she took Alas=Ramus’s hand and walked towards the beach.

Emi saw the two people off with a straight face, and patted her own cheeks hard like she was trying to gather up her motivation.

“Now what?”

Emi glared at Maou with a dangerous expression like she was going to draw a blade.

“.....Are you being serious? You really want to help us?”

“Didn’t I say so earlier. Stop asking already, I’ll lose my motivation that way.”

“Urushihara, look.....! The Hero actually submitted to Demon King-sama, today is a day which should be remembered.”

“Ashiya, saying these words in this situation, don’t you feel empty at all?”

As for Chiho, she quietly watched this scene.

“Even though Chi-chan and Ashiya already have experience in it, but I use people pretty crudely, you know?”

“Can you not look down on other people? The job of telephone customer service officer isn’t something which can be done if we’re too gentle!”

“You said it yourself. Then, next, please act according to my instructions. Don’t cry and run away even if you can’t take it anymore, okay? Sigh, since you didn’t bring any change of clothes, I won’t ask you to do things which are too strenuous.”

Even if his tone was arrogant, Maou still strangely showed a considerate side of him, and when he finished speaking, he turned towards Amane.

“Amane-san, is this alright?”

The final decision still lies with Amane. After all, she is their employer. No matter how motivated Emi and Chiho are, Maou was unable to use these new staff on his own decision.

“Even though I’m not too sure what’s going on, but I don’t mind. As long as the shop can be opened without a hitch tomorrow, even if I have to increase the personnel costs for today, I won’t hesitate about it! It was a problem caused by me from the beginning anyway.”

Until now, Amane still answered in a very relaxed manner.

After confirming Amane’s reaction with a sidelong glance, Maou looked at Ashiya, Urushihara, Emi and Chiho in turn.

“Very good, let me say this first, no matter how I think about it, it’s impossible to learn a lot of money on the first day tomorrow. Even though the

number of helpers has increased, but the scope of the shop itself is too large, so the areas we can tackle are limited. So.....”

Since they were unable to rely on Amane, then Maou would have to depend on himself and work happily with these people in order to build a shop which can proudly earn money from its customers.

Carrying the flow of money for tomorrow on his shoulders, the one worthy of the name “Substitute Shop Manager Maou Sadao” descended on the land of Kimigahama.

“From today onwards, we are going to use all our means to ‘whitewash’ this store!”

※

Maou quickly surveyed the facilities within the store.

The lights and the facilities of the kitchen, are considered to be operating normally. Even the high humidity freezer used to store the ingredients used a new model of the Tsukizaki brand which was even better than the one used in the MgRonalds store in front of Hatagaya station.

As for the cream coloured roof and rusting bottom of the drink cooler, even though they are obvious signs of aging, but if it was placed in the right position, these can still be hidden.

As the yellow brass drink machine looked like there were two taps extending out from one pipe, it was probably specially used to contain beer.

Maou even discovered an inconspicuous, dust covered manual shaved ice machine.

Even though it did not move smoothly, it seems like it did not suffer much damage.

Besides that, after Maou confirmed the placement of the electrical mains and lighting placements, he shouted once to boost his spirit and said this to Amane after entering the back of the store,

“Amane-san! How much petty cash do you have on hand right now?

Petty cash is a separate reserve of cash independent from the bank savings for units or shops to pay for the daily petty expenses or unexpected situations.

Even though for MgRonalds, which had a uniform operating structure, this was not something which would appear in the accounts at all, it will still occasionally be used to pay the transport fees of employees who provide assistance on short notice or for the stationery used in the office.

For a store run by an individual and did not have any special rules and restrictions, like Ooguro-ya, this petty cash will be used in a situation like

having to go to a nearby supermarket to buy the sauce used in the fried noodles when it runs out in order to tide over an emergency.

“Hmm~about 20,000 yen! If you really need it, it’s fine if I used my own personal savings.”

Amane replied loudly from the back of the store. As Chiho is still a minor, Amane said that she needed to prepare an agreement to obtain the consent of her parents. And Maou, who discovered that Amane was quite reliable in these administrative aspects, changed his view of her.

“20,000 yen is enough. Hey, Emi.”

Maou took a pen and notebook from the counter without asking for permission, and smoothly wrote out a few words, then passed it to Emi.

“You’re responsible for buying these things written on the paper, as for the location of the shop, you can ask Amane-san, the budget is within 5000 yen. In addition, besides the petty cash, withdraw a few 10,000 yen notes from the ATM and go to the bank to change them into 100 yen coins.”

“I can understand the changing of the 100 yen change.....but buying a new flotation tube and air pump, coloured art paper and sandpaper, what are those for?”

Maou totally ignored Emi, who became clearly suspiscious.

“Alright, just go and do it. Remember to bring back the invoice.”

“Isn’t it the receipt?”

“Because the invoice has the products recorded on it, so as long as it’s not something too expensive, it is better to issue an invoice when using petty cash to buy things. But if the invoice does not record the products which were purchased, the receipt still needs to be bought back.”

“I get it. I am part of the working class after all. It’s fine as long as Ooguro-ya is written in the header, and the products bought are written in the remarks right.....”

Emi executed this properly, and went to ask Amane about the location of the shop.

“Ashiya, before Emi comes back, clean up the floors of the store. Don’t even leave one speck of dust.”

“Un.....under, understood.....”

Ashiya, who received his orders, started to move after strangely stuttering his reply. As he was asking Amane about the location of the cleaning tools, and was planning to start cleaning quickly, he met Chiho by coincidence.

“Sasaki-san, listen to me.....”

“Yes, Ashiya.....Ashiya-san? Why are you crying?”

Even though the red nosed Ashiya had tears in the corner of his eyes, his hands are still starting the cleaning process properly, seeing this, the flustered Chiho quickly approached him to show her concern.

“Hero.....that Hero Emilia, the enemy of all demons! Actually obeying the orders of Demon King-sama because of the awe inspiring ruler’s aura which Demon King-sama emits! Seeing this scene in person.....I.....I am very touched! Even though this is only a small step for demon, but it is a large step for demonkind.....!” (T/N: Yes, Ashiya was quoting Lance Armstrong.)

Chiho watched Ashiya who couldn’t help but start crying with a stiff smile on her face.

“Even though it’s not as if I do not understand your joy, but I think you still got it wrong, anyway, please apologise to Armstrong-san first.”

“Sob sob.....it was good that I did not lose to despair and lived on.”

As she could not understand what Ashiya felt touched about, Chiho could only gloss over it with a smile and walked towards Maou.

“Ah, Chi-chan, how was it? Did your mother agree?”

Maou asked this to Chiho who returned. Even though the flow of the situation made it such that Chiho was helping them and caused trouble for the other party, but from Chiho's expression, she should have received a positive answer.

"Ooguro-san helped me call as well, so my mum agreed to let me work here. Now Ooguro-san is in the store preparing the contracts for me, Maou-san and everyone....."

Chiho paused a while, like she was replying cautiously by choosing the right words.

"She really agreed?"

Even though she knew Chiho was in Choshi, then from Riho's point of view, she should know that this incident had a very deep connection with Maou.

Of course, Maou would definitely not know what Riho and Chiho talked about before, but not considering that, for Riho to approve of Chiho working at her holiday location was still a very bold decision.

Of course Riho probably based this on her trust in her daughter, so she approved of this unprecedented action. Not only towards her daughter, this also represented how fully she trusted the people around her daughter.

If so, then it gave Maou more reason not to break this trust and bond.

“.....looks like after we return, we would have to make a trip to Chi-chan’s house with local souvenirs to express our gratitude.”

“Eh? There’s, there’s no need to go through so much trouble. It’s something I wanted to do anyway.”

Even though this answer was expected from someone like Chiho, but Maou still shook his head.

“We already received so much help from you, how can we not express our gratitude in return.....if this goes on, there might be a day I really need to go to your house and ask your family to let you join the Demon King Army.”

Maou said this casually.

“.....I, I’m a little flattered.”

Chiho drew in a sharp breath.

At this time, Maou finally realized what the words he said could imply.

“Ah? Ah! Uh, erhm, I did not mean it that way, how should I say it, this is just an euphemistic expression, not a reply to the earlier incident, ah, it’s not like it’s totally not like that, eh? eh?”

“Erhm.....if the ‘Demon King Army’ part is taken out.....uh, erhm, it does sound like.....a kind of reservation.....”

“Eh? What?”

Chiho timidly became coy, and Maou did not hear what she was trying to say clearly.

“No, nothing.....b, but, really, one day.....”

“.....Hey, there’s someone watching here. If there’s no work, I’m going to enjoy the air conditioning, you know.”

“Woah?”

“Urushi, Urushihara-san?”

The voice came from the feet of the two people. Urushihara, who squatted behind the beer bar, caused Maou and Chiho to jump in shock.

“Ah, er, erhm, yeah, you have work too. So wait a moment!”

“Sin, since you’re here, why didn’t you say anything!”

Chiho protested, her face and ears red, and Urushihara looked at Chiho, frowning in unhappiness.

“That’s what you say, but if I really interrupt, you’ll still complain right.”

Just this time, Urushihara was right.

Maou and Chiho were pictures of embarrassment, but staking his dignity as the Demon King, Maou was the one who recovered first.

“Cough! Now, even though it’s a rather boring job, but Chi-chan will stay here.....”

After coughing hard once, Maou and Chiho walked into the kitchen together, and Maou took the salt and vinegar from the seasoning rack, and a brush from the sink before walking over.

In front of Chiho, who was confused because she did not understand Maou’s intentions, he put a large spoon of salt into a small bowl, and after adding in vinegar, he used the brush to mix them evenly.

Maou walked up to the drink machine which was covered in discolouration, and brushed its surface with the brush dipped in the mix of salt and vinegar.

“Ah! Amazing, it came off!”

Then in the area which Maou brushed before, the yellow bronze regained its golden shine.

“As long as salt is used as the abrasive, and vinegar is added, the discolouration can be removed. I hope that Chi-chan can spend some time to wipe this fella until it’s all shiny.”

“I understand! Leave it to me!”

Even if her face was still a little red, Chiho still answered energetically and accepted the brush.

“If the salt and vinegar runs out, then add more into it, let me know when you’re done scrubbing.”

After Chiho expressed her agreement and started to work, Urushihara spoke to Maou again.

“Even though you don’t have any television or internet, it’s surprising that you would know the tricks of the housewives.”

“I learnt this when I just arrived in Japan. When I was a short term worker, my work locations really varied a lot.”

“Oh? You’re referring to the job you mentioned earlier where you needed to buy long sleeved shirts?”

“Yeah. Even though they are basically labour jobs like carrying heavy things, but like helping a theatre group to transport large props, hanging advertisements and promoting on the street, or investigating the traffic flow volume on the street, I really did many types of jobs. The technique which I taught Chi-chan, was learnt when I helped clean a winehouse full of nostalgia before its opening. After all, it is a simple job which did not require specialized tools.”

“In life, you’ll never know when some things will end up being useful.”

Urushihara smiled wryly, and Maou, in a rare occurrence, agreed.

“Even though I’m not sure when this will come into use in your life in future, I’m still going to assign work to you.”

“I don’t want work which is too troublesome.”

Even if he lowered his volume because he was conscious of Amane’s presence, Urushihara still did not change his sassy attitude.

Maou grabbed Urushihara and pointed towards the customers’ seats.

“Remove all the seat cushions from these chairs.”

“Eh?”

“You can use scissors or anything you want, just remove all these seat cushions, and expose the wood. Alright?”

“Remove.....uh, I can do that, but why?”

“These are seats for the seawater bath customers who will be wearing wet swimsuits.”

Maou pointed at the dirty seat cushions.

“Normal people would probably not want to sit on this kind of seats with a wet bottom right? Originally, they wouldn’t have to worry about the seat being wet if they stuck a plastic layer over it, using this only causes it to absorb water and create the opposite effect.”

“Eh? But if the seat cushion is removed and hard wood is left, their bottoms will hurt when sitting on it.”

“For customers to come, compared to exposing the hard wood, it is more important than having them feel uncomfortable when they are sitting because a wet bottom. On the other hand, since they aren’t many seats here, that is specially make the customers too comfortable, and it actually causes the table turnover rate to decrease. Since we need to fight under limited conditions, I

hope to constrain the satisfaction level of every customer, and give priority to increasing the table turnover rate, after cutting off the seat cushions, we will use the sandpaper Emi buys back.....”

“I see, first remove the seat cushions, then smoothing out the chair surface and the edges so it’s more comfortable to sit on.”

Amane appeared from the side. And for the documents she’s holding, it should be the labour contract for working which Chiho mentioned.

“Actually coming up with so many ideas. Have you opened a store before?”

“Uh, no, I haven’t.....and even though I can explain the reason for doing these things, when I decided to do them, it was purely on instinct.”

The contents of Maou’s suggestion weren’t the result of his original line of thought, he just built up an optimised model from the experiences he learnt in MgRonalds with the goal of making the customers want to buy things here.

“Sorry, suddenly doing things like breaking things in the store.....”

“It’s alright it’s alright, it can’t be helped. I can accept the reasons you said just now as well. Even though the stores nowadays use foldable chairs, but our store does not have enough money to change them. If there is a way to improve this without spending money, that would be the best.”

Without knowing if she really thought that way or she just wanted to comfort Maou, Amane nonchalantly patted Maou’s shoulder while smiling.

“That’s how things are, Urushihara. The employer already approved, so start to take the chair apart, but do it beautifully, don’t leave any cushion or any marks okay.”

“.....it’s still troublesome, seriously.”

Even if Urushihara complained, in front of Amane, he reluctantly started to work.

“Erhm, I’m going to say hi to Suzuno next, if you have any orders to pass to the brewery or vegetable store, please send it out first.”

“No problem. I have already prepared the contracts, when your wife comes back, everyone can have a look at it.”

“I already said she’s not my wife.....”

Maou sulked, and ran out before Amane could answer.

Some distance away from the waves, Suzuno was building a sandcastle together with Alas=Ramus.

No, to be more accurate, only Suzuno seemed to be building it.

“Papa, Suzu-nee chan is amazing!”

It was understandable for Alas=Ramus, who was running towards Maou, to say something like this, because the workpiece which Suzuno created such that even the lower hem of her Yukata was covered in sand was definitely a proper city with a moat.

Unlike the western style castle, it was a pure Japanese style Osaka Castle in which even the fish shaped titles were completely replicated.

In such a short time, Suzuno even meticulously drew in the seawater to form a protective moat around the castle

When children see this kind of thing, they would normally reach out to destroy it like the monsters in the movies, but it looks like Alas=Ramus used her tender aesthetic appreciation and felt something from Suzuno's workpiece.

“.....so, you had this kind of special skill.....”

“Hm, it's the Demon King. Oh my, after being asked by Alas=Ramus, I became serious without really being aware of it.”

Suzuno showed a smile like she was saying 'Mission Accomplished'. But in reality, this workpiece was so perfect that it made people want to take a picture, and name it "Himeji Castle".

(T/N: Himeji Castle is considered the finest surviving example of prototypical Japanese castle architecture, so comparing Suzuno's workpiece of Himeji Castle just emphasizes how good her skill is.)

“It’s nothing much. During training, there were already some people who would learn church architecture and statue sculpting. Considering that corrections can be made, sand sculpting is so much simpler. Sigh, even though parts of it will break when the wind blows.”

Even though he never heard of any inquisitor who learnt church architecture and statue sculpting building Himeji Castle at the beach, Maou, who had originally intended to ask Suzuno to bring Alas=Ramus along to pick some shells, suddenly changed his mind.

“Suzuno, please. Can you build one next to the store later? As for the payment, I will discuss it with Amane-san.”

“Build a sandcastle? I’m alright with it.....but is there any meaning in that?”

“I think that you, who see no meaning in it, are even scarier.”

Maou looked towards that Himeji Castle, feeling very touched.

Even though the time Emi and Chiho could spend here is limited, but Suzuno was basically a free spirit.

After confirming the lodging and payment and asking Suzuno, it might be possible to ask her to make a different sand sculpture every day. After all, there is nothing else which can draw in the customers more effectively than this.

“.....Sigh, anyway, please take care of Alas=Ramus for the time being.”

“Leave it to me. Alas=Ramus, what do you want to make next?”

“Hmm~ Mama!”

“Emilia huh, no problem, leave it to me.”

Since she was able to make the Osaka Castle, then a person should be a piece of cake for her. Maou left Suzuno who seemed like she was going to make a sand giant and returned to the store.

“These are the main suppliers. And this is the main menu from last year.”

Urushihara was still removing the seat cushions, and Amane placed all types of documents on the table next to the chairs.

“Anyway, let's narrow down the dishes for the first day. From the order list, the ingredients will be completely delivered tomorrow morning, in addition to preparation time, it's not possible to make everything, but as long as we make good use of the metal plate.....ah.....Amane-san, what kind of job do you normally do?”

Basically, Emi, Chiho and Suzuno could only help out for today. If so, Maou and Ashiya would have to cover for Urushihara, who had less experience in talking with other people, and Amane, who had ignored the shop until it fell into this state.

However, if Amane's main occupation is one which serves customers or is related to cooking, then they could take the chance to teach her the preparation work.....

“Uh.....it should be, considered hand to hand combat, I guess?”

“Hand to hand combat.....huh?”

Maou, who couldn't react immediately, returned the statement as a question.

“Uh~ in short, my skills in cooking should be lower than the normal living standard. I don't even know how to cut a cabbage into thin strips.”

Is this employer really alright? Maou started to feel a strange unease.

“How should I put it, hmm, oh yeah, it's more of a security occupation.”

Could she be like Urushihara, only specialising in guarding the safety of her own home. Amane did say over the phone before that the store was originally

run by her parents, and Maou started to suspect if the parents decided to push a store which did not earn any profit onto the daughter who did not have a job.

No matter what, this meant they couldn't take the risk and let Amane use the kitchen.

Since she knew the term “petty cash”, it meant Amane should possess the minimum knowledge of the terms used in the retail industry. It looks like she should just act like a shop manager and be responsible for the inflow and outflow of money.

Which meant that Ashiya would naturally be responsible for the cooking.

“As for the drinks.....for acidic drinks, Oletimin C would be the main drink, followed by refreshing cola, three swords soft drink, orange juice, sports drink and tea.....wouldn’t this be too much.”

There was only one drink cooler, and there were 4 levels inside. If the contents were not limited, when one of the products sell out, it would look very shabby as a whole.

“Why do you want to buy Oletimin C, aren’t the bottles quite small?”

In response to Amane’s question, Maou answered with a shake of his head.

“Because the bottle is thin, more can be put into the cooler, the volume means it can be finished quickly, and it’s cheap as well. Placing a 100 yen item amongst 120 yen items would attract attention regardless of whether you’re buying or not right? Also, very few people will bring paper cash when they come to play in the water. The shower stalls and coin operated lockers use 100 yen, after the customers exchange the coins, the number of 100 yen coins in their purse will increase. As long as there are products which allow the customers to pay for it conveniently, the sales here will increase.”

This was knowledge gained from MgRonalds’s low priced ala carte items, known as the 100 yen combinations.

“In addition, I want this thing.”

Maou pointed at the order form, and on top, it was written “Oletimin C special promotion event, buy two boxes and get a set of A2 sized posters to promote the store”. In short, as long as they order two boxes of drinks, they would be able to obtain merchandise for promotion use.

“What is it, Maou-kun, you want the poster of beautiful ladies in swimsuits?”

Amane looked at the idol poster which had an energetic girl printed on it, and asked Maou this with some interest, but he shook his head to deny it in a solemn manner.

“I plan to imitate the nostalgic billboards, and cover up the faults in the walls a little. As long as we paste the idol poster near the drink cooler to attract the

customer's attention, less people would notice that the cooler is already old. And the girl on the poster is cute, which helps in the promotions.”

“Wow, how boring. Are you a Mensao Dansei? Or a real herbivore?”

(T/N: Mensao Dansei or Mensao Guy, refers to a guy who looks quiet, cold or even dull outside, but inside they are volatile, charismatic, hot and sexy.)

Even though someone else was speaking so seriously, why is she using this kind of tone.

“The reason why I asked Chi-chan.....Sasaki-san to wipe the drink machine was because of this. If a dark store as a shiny beer machine to attract the customer's attention, then it will divert their attention from other places. Next, as long as we get some beer related posters when we order the drinks, it would be perfect as long as we guide the customer's line of sight from the beer to the menu.”

“Wow.....so that's why.”

“As long as we place the flotation tube that Emi buys back here, then an old inventory would look very plentiful. In short, it would be enough as long as we can reorganize this place into a minimum standard beach house. A direct attack will occur afterwards.”

“Oh~”

Amane looked at Maou in admiration. And then Maou's phone suddenly received a call from Emi.

"Hello, what's up. For you to take the initiative to call me, don't tell me it's the end of the world tomorrow."

"I'm going to cut."

The words sounded a little strange.

(T/N: In Japanese, 'cut' and 'hang up' have a similar pronunciation.)

"I'm in front of a hypermart near Choshi station, what kind of new flotation tube do you want? Considering the other things which need to be bought, 5000 yen is enough to only buy one."

"Just buy the child sized one. It's best to buy a gender neutral one. Is there one with Pokemon pictures?"

Pokemon is the short form for the recently popular game "Pocket Monsters", and is also a series which would release a movie version yearly, a franchise welcomed nationwide.

For the toy which came with the "Happy Meals" specially tailored for children in McDonalds, they once released products which were related to Pokemon.

“It’s too bad, looks like there isn’t anymore Pokemon flotation tubes. As for Pirichu and close up products.....ah, it’s Rilakkuma.....”

(T/N: Pirichu is the parody for Pikachu.)

“What are you getting excited about!”

“Do, does it matter! If it’s Rilakkuma, even boys can barely accept it.....”

“There’s no such thing.”

Maou denied Emi’s fantasy instantly.

“What! Not knowing how cute this thing is, you’re a demon after all.....ah, Pokemon.....but it’s not a flotation tube though, it’s a child sized play pool.....”

Emi said this while flipping through the things in the merchandise area, causing Maou to strike up an idea.

“Emi! How big is that play pool?”

“What? It’s not that big. The length and width is about two metres, because it’s for children, so it’s not that deep.....”

“Length and width of two metres.....that’s just right! Buy it! Buy it quickly!”

“Eh? Asking me to buy, the budget will be exceeded that way.....”

“I’ll pay for it! As for the flotation tube, it’s fine to buy Rilakkuma!”

“.....Alright alright, I get it. Then, I’ll be back in a while.”

After answering Emi in a lax manner, Maou hung up the phone.

Then he ran next to the counter and flipped through the phone book.

“Choshi is considered a harbour.....fish.....need to be kept fresh.....when in storage and transport, they will definitely use that.....found it!”

After discovering an advertisement, Maou quickly picked up the phone.

Amane looked at Maou acting this way, stunned, then she saw him lightly strike a victory pose after having a short conversation with the other party.

“Who did you call?”

“The ice block shop. A place called Southern Choshi Ice Industries.”

“Ice block shop?”

“I was thinking since there is a fish harbour, then there will definitely be a business selling ice. After calling to confirm, I realised their volume for a single order isn’t that large, Amane-san, I’m sorry, but can you drive over to get the ice? I ordered edible ice for shaved ice and pure ice which doesn’t melt easily for cooling.”

“For cooling?”

After Maou turned to look inside the store, and turned back again to explain.

“Considering the issues with the electrical sources, the drink cooler can only be placed within the store and cannot be moved. So I asked Emi to buy a play pool back, and I plan to fill it up with ice and a bunch of drinks to sell in front of the store. Not only will it attract customers, it will also allow people to buy drinks without entering the store. At the same time, the cooler can be filled with drinks for people who want to eat a proper meal to increase the variety of the products.”

“Oh.....you actually thought of this.....but, you actually plan to use that to make shaved ice?”

Amane pointed to the manual ice shaving machine which Maou pulled out.

“That thing might look simple, but it’s strenuous and troublesome to use in reality, is there really a need to prepare to that extent?”

“Don’t worry. With regards to the drinks and shaved ice, it’s enough to let Urushihara handle it by himself.”

“Eh, huh? That’s pushing it too much!”

Urushihara, who was removing the seat cushions at the side, shouted in surprise.

“Erhm, isn’t that too great a burden for Urushihara.....”

“That’s what I feel as well. He definitely can’t do it.”

“Hey, even though I feel the same way myself, is there really a need to be so ruthless?”

Hearing Maou say this, Ashiya and Chiho, who were focused on their tasks, asked this uneasily, causing Urushihara to frown once again.

But Maou puffed out his chest in confidence.

“Relax. I’m going to be in charge of the miscellaneous tasks in the hall, and I will help him properly when needed. In addition, with the method I’m using, it’s an ideal system where I can let Urushihara handle it alone without worrying that he will mess up, and even if shaved ice machine cannot be used well, the customers will not complain.”

“Ah?”

“Wha, what does that mean exactly?”

“Urushihara-san.....can work by himself?”

Maou watched the three people express their surprise in different ways with a satisfied expression, and started to explain the epoch making system which would allow the NEET fallen angel to sell multiple products by himself.

After he finished explaining everything----

“So, so that’s how it is.....unlike MgRonalds, because this is Ooguro-ya, it’s possible to do this kind of thing.”

Chiho subconsciously spoke to herself.

“As long as a person who knows how to open and close the cooler and read the prices is found to sit there, it is possible to achieve.....as expected of Demon King-sama, you have such foresight!”

“Ashiya, you’re too honest. You’re so honest I’m really starting to feel sad.”

Saying this, Urushihara showed an expression of relief----

“But if it’s just that, it feels like I can do it too.”

And in a rare occurrence, he said something positive.

※

In the darkness, colourful and vibrant fireworks danced continuously in the stable sea wind.

“This, looks really charming.”

On the front end of the rod shaped object which Ashiya held uneasily, many colours of fireworks were emitted continuously from it, illuminating Ashiya’s stiff expression at the same time.

“Mama, sparkles, it’s sparkling.”

“This is too early for Alas=Ramus, let stay at the side and watch.”

Even though for a child who merged with the holy sword and is on par with an archangel, fireworks shouldn’t be a problem for her, but Alas=Ramus was still like a normal toddler, and frequently ends up crying in fear because of loud noises and lights that she did not recognize.

So even if the girl is able to bask in the beauty of the lights from a distance, but if they allowed her to hold a normal stick firework, she might still end up throwing it away in fear.

“Hey, how is this any fun?”

If that was the case, it wouldn’t be very interesting to let Alas=Ramus watch the snake firework which Urushihara squatted and placed on the beach squirm around, so Emi decided to act like a mother and take on the responsibility of watching the child.

Currently, the beach house Ooguro-ya finally regained the appearance of what a shop should have, which allowed Amane to have the free time to organize a firework event to welcome Maou and the others.

“Hey, Ashiya, lend me some fire! I want to challenge four swords style!”

Someone stretched out four weapons beside Ashiya’s firework.

The mighty king of the Demon World held two different fireworks in both hands, and was currently enjoying himself greatly.

“.....As long as you’re happy.”

Ashiya honestly moved the flame to the fireworks in Maou’s hands.

“Ah, it fizzled out.”

But as Ashiya’s firework fizzled out halfway, only three sticks were lit.

“.....They only have different outer packaging, in the end, the colours of the flames that come out are the same.”

The three firework sticks emitted the same sparks, causing the king of the Demon World to become depressed.

When Emi returned in the afternoon, Alas=Ramus, who grew bored of playing in the sand, and Suzuno just happened to return to the beach house, so the group look a little rest. Ashiya used the existing ingredients, and challenged himself to make multiple portions of fried noodles as lunch for everyone.

During cooking, because Ashiya felt shocked at the firepower of the metal plate due to the Liquefied Petroleum Gas, from the start till the end----

“If only the Demon Fortress could have this kind of firepower.....”

He kept mumbling these useless things to himself.

After the break, Maou asked Suzuno to choose a place where the sea wind will not reach, and begin to build to proper Osaka Castle there, as for Emi, she had left halfway to take care of Alas=Ramus.

Urushihara used the sandpaper to smooth out the exposed original wooden surface of the chairs.

Ashiya referred to the basic recipes of the menu and started to prepare the existing ingredients, watching Ashiya, Chiho wrote cute and attention catching words on the coloured art paper which Emi bought, making the signs to be displayed within the store to showcase the products.

As it was said that the showers are an important factor which determines the standard of a beach house, Maou attentively cleaned every corner according to Amane's instructions, making sure there was not one patch of rust left.

The breakwater is a famous spot in Choshi to view the sunset, and right now, the sun was setting to the west and the skies were turning dark.

The beach house 'Ooguro-ya', which Emi had commented that she 'won't buy things from this store', and people had despaired over whether it would open at all, was finally reorganized into a normal looking aged store.

As for the stains and cracks on the walls as well as the rust on the noticeboards which accumulated over a long period of time, there was nothing they could do about them for now, therefore only the transportation of the ingredients tomorrow morning and the final preparations were left.

At this moment, Suzuno's sand sculpture workpiece-----named the 'Sand Sculpture, Blue Heaven Tower' was completed.

"Kamazuki-san, you can earn money through this....."

This large tower was so detailed that Amane commented thus.

It was unknown what techniques Suzuno used, but it didn't look so fragile and it will break upon contact.

According to Suzuno, the sand of Kimigahama was very suitable for making sand sculptures, as long as sand and water were mixed in a proper ratio, and sculpting was done after the sand has set, it can easily last one or two days.

Earlier, Emi had gone to a hotel at Inubo Cape, which was about a ten plus minute journey from Kimigahama, to register their accommodation and eat dinner, and because of Amane's invite to experience fireworks for the first time, she returned to Kimigahama.

Afterwards, Maou knew it was not just Emi and Suzuno, even Chiho would be staying here.

“In the end, you’re going to stay here?”

Maou, who couldn’t help asking, found out at Chiho had already received her parents’ consent about her staying over, and even if he couldn’t quite accept it, he didn’t say anything more.

In reality, other than Amane and Chiho, it was everyone else’s first time playing with fireworks.

As they had already been in Japan for more than one year, Maou and the rest did know what fireworks are, but once they personally came into contact with fireworks, they understood that even though this was just a toy, the design was very detailed.

At least, regardless of demonic magic or holy spells, they would be unable to produce sparks or flames this colourful.

“Alas=Ramus-chan, do you want to look at this?”

Chiho took a rather large model out from the fireworks pile.

“This firework is really big. What is it?”

Emi also grew interested in this firework. Compared to the firework model which was placed on the ground and shot its flames upwards, this firework which had thin bamboo sticks as its main body not only had a pentagon like shaped object placed at the front end, it even had a wick at the end.

The group had dug a hole earlier to provide shelter from the wind, and after Chiho stood some distance away from the people around here, she moved the wick at the front towards the candle in the hole.

“Woah----!”

Alas=Ramus exclaimed.

When the pentagon shaped paper at the end of the bamboo stick turned, colourful sparks were emitted.

Compared to the loud sounds of fireworks, these sparks burned for more than then seconds before they fizzled out, but unexpectedly, there was a change which cause Alas=Ramus's eys to shine.

“Birdie!”

The pentagon shaped paper split into two after spinning from the gunpowder inside it and changed into a birdcage shaped paper art.

It looks like a small yellow bird was placed into the paper made birdcage from the start.

“Birdie, chirp chirp!”

As Alas=Ramus saw this, she gave an expression like she really wanted to touch it.

After handing the stick to Emi, Chiho said,

“Even though there might be a slightly charred smell, but let her touch it after a while.”

“This is made really well.....today’s toys are really amazing.”

“There seems to be other types where a parachute or flags of many countries will fly out, but it’s too bad that fireworks which can fly cannot be released here, so I cannot introduce those to you.”

Basically, most beaches forbid fireworks which can fly upwards, such as rockets, because they can be affected by wind direction and it’s difficult to predict where they will land.

“It’s a little birdie!”

After ensuring it was no longer hot, Emi passed the birdcage to Alas=Ramus, and the young girl’s eyes shone because of the birdcage in her hands.

“Hey, you haven’t thanked Chiho onee-san yet, have you?”

“Thank kwew!”

Alas=Ramus honestly said her thanks at Emi’s prompting, and that lively appearance caused Amane and Suzuno, who were some distance away, to smile.

“Hmph, this means I won three times in a row!”

On the other end, Maou, who seemed to have grown tired of the multi-sword style playing method, sat in a circle together with Ashiya, Amane and Suzuno, who was wearing a Yukata, playing “Sparkler Elimination Competition”, competing to see whose firework would be able to last the longest in the sea wind.

“Damn, the Yukata matches the sparkler too well, I don’t feel dissatisfied even if I lost! Isn’t that right, Maou-kun!”

Seeing Suzuno’s charming state, Amane patted the shoulder of Maou, who was beside her, with some force.

“Uh, I’m not specially.....”

“How can we lose to her! Please continue to do your best!”

Ashiya, who was standing beside Maou, drew out another three sparklers from the bundle, thoroughly doing his job as a judge.



“Mama, Mama!”

“Hm? What is it?”

“There, will a little birdie fly out from there as well?”

The direction which Alas=Ramus pointed in as she carefully hugged the birdcage was not towards the direction of Maou and the others who were excitedly playing with fireworks.

Looking carefully, lights from a group of fishing boats were shown on the surface of the night sea. It looked like a large group of boats, so that was it, it did resemble the colour of the sparks emitted by that birdcage firework.

“About that, I don’t know as well. Then again, Alas=Ramus shouldn’t be afraid of sparklers right. Do you want to go over to Suzuno onee-san, and ask them to let you join in?”

“Suzu-nee chan!”

Emi gently diverted Alas=Ramus’s attention back to the fireworks, and sat on the beach with a straight back.

Even though Alas=Ramus was slowed down by the sand, she still tried very hard to run to where Suzuno was.

Seeing this, Emi turned back to the sea.

The lights reflected on the sea surface at night are not good signs.

In the Southern Continent of Ente Isla, the strange fires on the sea were seen as a sign of great misfortune.

Currently on the Southern Continent, it is said that the people who saw the strange fires on the sea emitted by the dead souls would meet a disaster and be brought to the gates of Hell.

The necromancy techniques which the Demon General Malacoda and his troops was skilled in would be the most effective in this kind of place where superstitious beliefs ran thick and deep.

Of course, this place is Japan, and Emi knew those were lights from fishing boats, and knew that on Earth, those called Shiranui and St. Elmo's Fire and so on were strange fire phenomenon which have yet to be explained by scientists.

(T/N: Shiranui – It is a phenomenon originating in Kyushu. They are said to appear on days of the noon moon such the kaijitsu (29th or 30th day) of the seventh month of the lunisolar calendar when the wind is weak, in the Yatsushiro Sea and the Ariake Sea. Furthermore, they can be seen in modern time, but they been determined to be an atmospheric optical phenomena.

St Elmo's Fire - is a weather phenomenon in which luminous plasma is created by a coronal discharge from a sharp or pointed object in a strong electric field in the atmosphere (such as those generated by thunderstorms or created by a volcanic eruption))

But these phenomenon were definitely treated as strange existences in Ente Isla.

“Hm, are you afraid of Shiranui?”

Emi raised her head because of the sudden question and realised that Amane was watching the sea surface which Alas=Ramus had just pointed out.

“You not playing with the sparklers anymore?”

Emi used this question to change the topic.

“I can't win no matter how many times I play it. The Yukata Kamazuki-chan is wearing isn't just for show. So I changed places with Chiho-chan.”

Even though she had never heard that wearing a Yukata would allow for more stable handling of sparklers, but Amane continued to speak,

“I don’t mean to scare you by saying this, but Choshi has a tale known as the “Snarling Spirits”.

“Snarling Spirits?”

“Snarling Spirits are a type of boat spirit which would appear next to fishing boats during a fog or a storm. In order to increase their number of drowned comrades, they will shout “Lend me Inaga”. Inaga refers to a hook, if you lend them a hook, that boat will sink. When Snarling Spirits appear, they will light fires on the surface of the sea, just like that. Kyushu seems to have a similar story, but in simple terms, they are just pranks of dead spirits which cannot move on.”

Amane said as she looked at the boats on the surface of the sea.

“I often feel that, I cannot understand the thinking that the dead returning to the world of the living means that they are going to do evil.”

“Eh?”

“Oh my, because isn’t there a cultural practice like the Obon Festival? So I think that, the first one who is afraid of the dead or the signs from that world must have done a lot of bad things when they were alive.”

“Aren’t these stories created because people are afraid of death?”

Urushihara interrupted from the side.

From the ten plus burnt out snake fireworks laid out in front of Urushihara, he probably really likes this thing.

“Don’t you feel that the voices of those who are afraid of death and those who are afraid of the dead are completely different?”

As the topic turned to matters related to life and death, it gave a feeling that Suzuno would be more suited to explain these things.

“Fearing the dead who have regrets or sentimental attachments is like adding insult to the injury, isn’t that really mean? In reality, the truly scary ones.....”

Amane suddenly looked towards the lighthouse on Inubo Cape which was shining light into the dark surface of the sea.

“have always been those who are living. Basically, what is known as bad omens, all have a scientific basis, and are only the result of these chain reactions. Uh, anyway, what I wanted to say is.....”

Amane turned back towards the beach.

In her line of sight, were Maou, Ashiya, Suzuno, Chiho and the smiling Alas=Ramus, who was holding a sparkler with Chiho’s assistance.

“We can’t let that child do anything that discriminates a spirit.”

“.....Amane-san?”

“What? What does that mean?”

Just as Emi and Urushihara probed further because they did not understand what Amane wanted to express---

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrom.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrromm.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrommm.....

A loud sound like a low pitched police siren shook the whole of Kimigahama.

Other than Amane, everyone else flinched because of the sudden sound.

“Ah uhm?”

Even Alas=Ramus, who had been playing with the sparklers happily, looked around in fright, and the sparkler which was producing sparks dropped to the ground.

“It’s, it’s alright, there’s no need to be afraid.”

Chiho quickly hugged Alas=Ramus, and touched her cheek to calm her down, but the continuous roaring caused Alas=Ramus's expression to change into a crying face.

“It’s alright! It’s nothing to be afraid of!”

Even if Chiho tried her best to console Alas=Ramus, she still looked like she was going to cry any moment. Even though she was an abnormal existence who can bravely face Gabriel, Alas=Ramus was still like any normal toddler who did not have any resistance against the fear of unknown things.

When the air shaking loud noise sounded again, Alas=Ramus finally started crying.

“Wahhhhh, I don’t wannaaaaa!”

“Oh my oh my.....this sound is terrifying to small children after all.”

Amane, the only one who looked composed, turned her gaze back to the lighthouse.

“W, we were a little spooked as well.....”

Just as Emi replied, that roar echoed once again.

“Uh, this thing, is the sound produced by the fog horn of the lighthouse. So it doesn’t represent any danger, all of you can relax.”

“Fog horn?”

Emi asked Amane because of the term she had never heard before.

“This is the sound signal which the fog signal of the light house produces when a dense fog appeared. It is a warning signal to warn the boats to be careful not to come into contact with the reefs. Isn’t a fog starting to appear on the sea?”

As long as the weather conditions were met, the seas in summer can still form fogs as easily as in winter.

“Hey hey hey, wasn’t the weather earlier really good?”

Everyone present lifted their heads upwards at Maou’s voice and involuntarily sucked in a breath. Starting from an unknown time, the faraway surface of the sea was covered in a pure white dense fog. Even the lights of the fishing boats were swallowed by the fog, and they could only barely confirm their positions.

“Such, such a serious fog.”

Ashiya looked around frantically, and Chiho hugged Alas=Ramus tightly once again to prevent her from being scared.

“From this situation, it might come over.”

Amane’s tone started to contain some anxiousness.

“As fogs form frequently in Kimigahama, it was known as “Kirigahama” once. Looks like this fog will probably spread to land. It’s too bad, but the fireworks event has to end now.” (T/N: Kiriga meaning fog)

Amane nodded, pointed to the remains of the fireworks and said to Maou,

“I’m sorry, but can I trouble you to clean this up? I’m going to send the girls back to the hotel. After all, once the fog reaches land, it would be so thick that even the locals cannot venture outside.”

Amane, who swiftly gave her orders, was totally different from the relaxed side of her in the day.

“I, I understand.”

Even when Maou and Ashiya worked together to clean up the ashes, Alas=Ramus was still crying continuously.

“Wahhhhh, I don’t wannaaaaa!”

“.....it’s rare for her to cry continuously like this.....”

As it can be confirmed with the naked eye that the dense fog was continuously moving towards land with the aid of the wind, even as Maou's forehead creased, he still quickly told Amane,

“I'll leave Chi-chan and Alas=Ramus to you.”

“Hey hey hey, how about your wife and Kamazuki-chan.”

Even if Amane replied lightly, she still nodded immediately like she did not have the leisure to continue joking with Maou.

“Leave it to me. But as much as possible, don't go outside. You have to wake up early tomorrow, so sleep for today. Now, Chiho-chan, Yusa-chan, Kamazuki-chan, let's go.”

Amane urged the few females to quickly leave the beach, and Maou and the rest watched them go, feeling uneasy.

When Emi and the others reached the hotel, the dense fog which swallowed the whole city was so dense that even the scenery on the other side of the street could not be seen.

“Alright, go and rest everyone. Remember to come and collect your pay tomorrow.”

However, after Amane drove Emi and the rest over, she immediately started working on the fog covered road.

“Amane-san, the fog is still really thick now. Why don’t you wait in the hall for a while?”

Suzuno’s suggestion was to be expected. But Amane rejected it.

“I have some small matters to take care of. Hm, it has something to do with my main occupation, I need to go some place when there is a fog. Don’t worry, I’m already used to it. Then, see you tomorrow.”

After saying this quickly, before Emi and the rest could stop her, Amane disappeared into the fog covered night.

Alas=Ramus, who had finally stopped crying, as well as the three people, Emi, Chiho and Suzuno, watching Amane who had disappeared into the fog with some worry.

And in this dense fog which made people uneasy, a beam of light which looked like it came from the lighthouse shone past quickly.

※

“But the fog is really serious.”

“If a person goes out at this time, it must feel like sinking in the middle of thick fog.”

Maou and Ashiya monitored the situation outside from the window of their lodging.

“Hey, Maou, your phone is ringing.”

Urushihara called out to Maou from behind, and handed the mobile phone to him.

“Oh, it’s a message from Chi-chan.....they arrived at the hotel safely.”

Maou opened the message and read it, and his gaze stopped on the last sentence in confusion.

“.....They can’t be serious?”

“What happened?”

When Ashiya asked, Maou raised his head and answered,

“Oh my, I heard Amane-san headed to some place in this fog?”

“She should be just going home? Isn’t she a local?”

“Hm, that’s possible, but what Chi-chan said is not ‘go back’, it’s ‘heading to some place’.”

Maou folded his phone and kept it in his pocket, then glanced outside once again.

Thinking about it, in the end Maou still did not know what Amane’s main occupation was. Could she have specially gone out because of something related to her job? The fog shrunk the range of vision to a few metres, just as Maou was praying that Amane would not meet any car accident----

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrom.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrromm.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrommm.....

The sound was heard again. The glass on the windows vibrated with a ‘Tak tak tak’ sound.

The roar of an ancient dragon, perhaps it did sound like that.

A sound which felt like it was enough to tear the fog apart shook the air around the sea, causing Maou, who wasn't paying attention because he was deep in thought, to jump up, his heart feeling like it was going to explode.

“That, that scared me!”

The surrounding fog became more densely packed following that sound.

Their field of vision went white, and even the Inubo cliffs where the lighthouse was build became blur.

“De, Demon King-sama!”

“Woah?”

Ashiya suddenly shouted beside him, and Maou who was frightened once again, jumped lightly.

“Don, don’t, don’t scare me like that! Ah~seriously!”

“My, my apologies. But.....within the fog, is there something there?”

“Hm? Inside the fog?”

From what can be seen within this heavy fog, it should only be the lighthouse light which occasionally shone past, the beach in front of them, the reflections of themselves in the window and----

“.....a person?”

A shadow seemed to appear in the fog. And it seemed to be heading in this direction. However, the movements of the shadow were strangely unsteady, wobbling like a broken clock. Mostly importantly----

“It, it seems to be a little big?”

“That, that’s right.”

The approaching human shadow was very large. And it greatly exceeded the standard of being burly or tall.

The size of this shadow can easily surpass the height of this bungalow, Ooguro-ya.

“What is it, what happened?”

Seeing Maou and Ashiya acting this distraught, Urushihara also approached the window in surprise. Then with his own eyes, he confirmed what Maou and Ashiya saw.”

“Be, because it’s in the fog, so it should be Brocken spectre or something like that?”

(T/N: Brocken spectre – Refers to the apparently enormous and magnified shadow of an observer, cast upon the upper surfaces of clouds opposite the sun.)

“What, what that refers to is the shadow of one of us. In, in other words.....”

“I say, can that be the story which Amane-san was mentioning to Emilia earlier.....”

The story of the ghost spirit spread in Choshi ----Snarling Spirit.

“That’s not right, shouldn’t that just appear on the boat? That, thing looks like it’s on land no matter how you look at it.

“Shh.....h, hey, there’s footsteps.....”

Perhaps the scene of a few great demons from the Demon World gathering together and being afraid of a looming huge shadow in the fog may look hilarious, but even if they are demons, they will still be afraid of strange things.

“It’s, it’s coming.....”

Ashiya moaned, and at the same time, the shadow passed through the dense fog and revealed itself.

“Eh.....”

This sound should have come from Maou, Ashiya or Urushihara.

The shadow which cut through the fog and revealed itself was without a doubt, a giant. And these three people were no strangers to this giant.

The human shadow like thing, knelt on the ground at a place not too far in front of them, and the sound produced stirred up a sand cloud.

“That, that is.....”

“Let’s go! Demon King-sama! Lucifer!”

“Is, is this for real?”

Once they saw the giant collapse in front of Ooguro-ya, they ran out of Ooguro-ya before they could fully regain their senses.

The location was near the porch of the room they stayed in.

Maou, Ashiya and Urushihra, were frozen in fear because of that giant who collapsed in the swirling sand and a fog so dense that one's fingers could not be seen.

“Ohh.....arr.....”

Even if this moan obviously could not have been made by a human, but this thing did have a human like appearance.

It's just that his body was twice as large as a normal human. The giant had skin like rusted armour, and a demon like horn grew out from the top of his head.

The most attention grabbing feature was the tattoo covering his whole face like they were wrapping the left and right eye.

To the three people, the tattoo gave them the impression that there was a single large eye in the middle of his face.

“Don, don't tell me it's.....a demon?”

Ashiya said softly to himself like he was confirming the situation in front of his eyes. Maou also swallowed his saliva.

“Is.....is it a member of the One Eyed Tattooed Demons? Why would this guy suddenly come here?”

“I can’t.....see anything, how can.....a human.....have this kind of power.....”

It looked like what the One Eyed Tattooed Demon said did contain some meaning. And undoubtably, it was one of the languages of the Demon World. This sentence suddenly added the touch of reality to the scene in front of them, and caused Ashiya to approach the giant.

“H, hey, you there, One Eyed Tattooed Demon! Exactly what.....”

“Ashiya! Get back!”

A wave of dense fog suddenly swirled up above the One Eyed Tattooed Demon.

Maou grabbed Ashiya’s neck, and forcefully pushed him to the ground, a screw shaped fog passed over to the two people like a snake with awareness, attacking the One Eyed Tattooed Demon.

The three people, who could only watch everything in shock, a piercing light flashed in front of their eyes, and in the instant they turned away, the One Eyed Tattooed Demon which logically should not appear in Japan, was wrapped into the fog and disappeared.

After all, the roar of a giant dragon was heard.

“It, it disappeared.....”

After the screw shaped fog disappeared, only sunken sand was left at the scene. But.....

“That was a young One Eyed Tattooed Demon right.....he was really here just now. And he was hurt.”

Not long ago, a giant entity collapsed in the sand, and the traces of a certain red substance were mixed in.

Compared to Maou, who calmly analysed the situation, Ashiya exclaimed in surprise,

“But, th, this is Kimigahama in Chiba! Why would a demon from the Demon World come here?”

“Really, don’t forget that the Demon King and angels are gathered in Tokyo’s Sasazuka. Perhaps an Archbishop from the Church will appear in Sapporo one day, and Orochimaru will appear in Ente Isla.”

“This isn’t a time to be joking around!”

Ashiya determinedly stopped Maou from making more jokes.

“The problem is, only we are here right now!”

“I.....am really hoping that this is a coincidence, okay?”

“Even if it is a coincidence, isn’t it a bit too ridiculous.”

It looked like even Urushihara was shaken by the situation and was looking around frantically.

“Perhaps, the people of the Demon World got a hold of our location, and came to get us.....”

Ashiya suddenly thought of this possibility, but this deduction was really too optimistic.

“I don’t think so? If so, then why would that One Eyed Tattooed Demon be covered in wounds?”

“That, that is because.....”

Urushihara’s opinion caused Ashiya to become speechless for the moment. Even if they weren’t completely sure about it, but it looked like the injuries caused by a battle.

Where is that ‘gate’, and who opened it; was that demon injured before he entered the ‘gate’ or after he exited the ‘gate’. Following the difference in the time frame and events, the situation will be changed greatly.

The important point is, if he really was the One Eyed Tattooed Demon from the Demon World that Maou and the rest knew of, then a big question appeared.

Why was that One Eyed Tattooed Demon able to maintain his demon form after coming to Japan.

But the situation did not allow Maou and the rest any time to think about it.

“Ugh! Hey, Ashiya! Behind you!”

Behind the deeply thinking Ashiya, a new demon appeared.

With the lower body of a carnivorous animal and a demon’s face for the upper body, it was a human shaped demon commonly found in the Demon World, known as the Beast Demon.

“Ohhhhh.....”

But this demon was also injured like the One Eyed Tattooed Demon from earlier, moaning in pain.

It looked like the other party was a middle ranked demon good enough to be a troop leader in the Demon King Army. But the armour he was wearing was cracked in several places. The sword in his hand was so battered that it was difficult to believe that it had not broken yet.

“Beast Demon? Is it a resident of the Demon Capital Satanasarc?

There were many types of demons which were half beast and half demon, even what was known as the capital of the Demon World, Demon Capital Satanasarc, had many sub clans who lived there.

“Hu, humans of this world.....will you oppose me as well?”

It was the Demon language which they had missed quite a bit. Even though it sounded like normal grating sounds, even if they used the ears of humans, Maou and Ashiya were still able to receive and understand the contents without having to use mental communication.

“Hu, human?”

Whether it is Ashiya, Maou or Urushihara, they would of course understand the language of the Demon World. But Ashiya, who did not have the chance to process the situation, the language he used in his panic was the Japanese which he was already completely used to.

“Insolent being! I am from the Demon King Army, the Demon General Aisi.....”

“Don’t say things that people do not understand. Eat my blade and learn the greatness of the sword.”

“What did you say?”

Ashiya burned in anger because of the rude words of the other party, but from the point of view of this beast demon, it only saw a human from a foreign world standing over there and shouting.

In the instant the already damaged twin blades of the connected swords swung towards Ashiya.

“Ashiya!”

Maou shouted this loudly and used his body to knock him into the sand. The two of them even felt the blades soaring over their heads.

“Keep your blades! We are not your enemies!”

Maou shouted at the beast demon which fell to the ground after swinging his blades. The expression of the other party wavered visibly.

“Ashiya, calm down! Even if you speak to him in Japanese, there’s no way to communicate!”

“Ah, I, I see.”

With Urushihara’s reminder, Ashiya finally realised his mistake and frantically switched from Japanese to the language of the Demon World.

“Ugh.....language of the Demon World.....power of the Demon World.....who, exactly are.....”

“!”

“What is it?”

The words of the beast demon soldier were unable to reach the ears of Maou and the rest in the end.

Just like what happened with the One Eyed Tattooed Demon, the fog snake swiftly swept the beast demon away, and immediately after that, a short bright flash appeared within the fog, and the beast demon disappeared in front of their eyes.

After that, there was another roar from that giant dragon.

“What is going on? Don’t tell me the Church is attacking?”

“B, but, I have never seen spells like this!”

The injured demons from the Demon World, disappeared into the fog in front of their eyes in an instant.

But there were no traces of demonic magic left, and at the same time, they did not sense any remnants of power from the power which got rid of the two demons.

Wrong. There was still demonic magic left.

“Above! It’s coming again!”

This time, Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara sensed the demonic magic before the other party came close.

“?”

A loud sound like cannon fire shook faraway fog covered skies.

At this moment, a certain object fell towards the beach where Maou and the rest were.

“Get out of the way!”

The three people quickly moved away from where they stood.

As if the demon was thrown away by the loud sound just now, it opened its huge wings just before touching the ground and slowly landed where the three of them were originally standing.

Just from the size, this demon was a lot smaller than the One Eyed Tattooed Demon and Beast Demon. The demon, which was about as tall as Ashiya, was a demonic bird wearing fully black armour.

Even if it had used its wing to slow its descent, the demon bird was also heavily injured and knelt down in the same place as the beast demon.

“Ugh, we were too careless.....! Who knew that there was such a strong entity here!”

Unlike the two demons from before, even if the armour and helmet of this demonic bird were battered, the sword and sword sheath at its waist was undamaged, and were adorned with beautiful jewels which emitted an elegant glow.

It looked like a well known jeweled sword, but compared to that sword, Maou and Ashiya’s attention were drawn to the face of the demonic bird warrior.

The two people were familiar with that face.

“Cou, could it be.....”

“Ca, Camio?”

“Camio-sama?”

The demonic bird warrior, which had big round eyes even though it was a demon, raised its head because it was addressed by people it did not know.

“Humans, who are you.....why do you know my name.....? Ugh!”

The demonic bird warrior was bleeding from its mouth, and looked at Maou and Ashiya with a sharp gaze.

“It doesn’t matter who we are! Camio, what happened! Your injuries.....”

“Demon King-sama! The fog is coming again!”

Maou wanted to approach the demonic bird warrior, but the fog snake appeared again, surrounding the body of the demonic bird warrior.

Even though they did not know what principle the fog used to get rid of the demons, they also did not know what will happen if they were sucked in. Maou stopped involuntarily.

“Damn, looks like we have to risk it!”

Urushihara shouted sharply and a strong wind blew suddenly.

With Maou and the rest as the center, the surrounding fog was pushed back in one go.

“Urushihara?”

A pair of wings appeared on Urushihara’s back, but they weren’t black wings of a fallen angel, but white wings filled with holy magic.

Urushihara, flapping his wings, produced a strong wind and blew away all the fog between where Maou and the rest were standing and Ooguro-ya.

“Y, your wings, why are they white.....”

“This fog is unnatural once you look at it, right? Forget about these small things, bring Camio in quickly!”

“Y, yeah! Seriously, what is going on! Ashiya, support the other side!”

“Un, understood!”

The two people used their shoulders to support the demonic bird warrior and brought this demon to inside the Ooguro-ya next to them.

Urushihara, in charge of bringing up the earlier, lightly flapped his wings to stop the approach of the fog and closed the door after waiting for everyone to enter.

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrom.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrromm.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrommm.....

The loud sound which echoed throughout Kimigahama sounded like a roar of a carnivorous animal who had failed in its hunt.

“Demon King-sama, the fog!”

Ashiya looked out of the window after letting the demonic bird warrior sit down, the dense fog was dissipating as if it was being scattered by that roar.

After a short while, Kimigahama regained its original normal night scenery.

The moon, the stars, the lights from the fishing boats, the lights in town, and the lighthouse.

The events which happened during this time were like a daydream, they could even hear the waves hitting against the beach if they listened carefully.

“Camio, Camio, hang in there!”

The three people looked at the injured demonic bird warrior with serious expressions.

“Even though I don’t know who all of you are.....but if you are to be involved with me, you might face life threatening danger.....don’t overestimate yourselves, humans.....”

For unknown reasons, the language the demonic bird warrior used was different from the One Eyed Tattooed Demon and beast demon, using the language which did not match its appearance, Japanese, from the start.

“Sigh, it can’t be helped. After all, Satan and Alsiel look completely different from before.”

The demonic bird warrior stopped speaking when it heard Urushihara’s voice.

“But you should still be able to recognize me right? Demon Minister Camio.”

The demonic bird warrior raised its head swiftly.

Even though he was wearing a wrinkled t-shirt and sports shorts, but with his white wings still on his back, Urushihara stood in front of the demonic bird warrior.

Once the demonic bird warrior saw Urushihara’s face, he sucked in a sharp breath in surprise.

“Lucifer.....are you Lucifer?”

“That’s right, Camio. As usual, you only drop the honorifics when it comes to me.”

Ignoring Urushihara, who frowned in unhappiness, the demonic bird warrior known as Camio shifted its gaze to the other two males currently looking at him.

“Alsiel? Satan? Cou, could you be.....”

Camio said in a quavering tone.

“Eastern General-dono.....”

“.....Even though my appearance is like this now, but Camio-dono, I am Alsiel.”

Alsiel knelt down to look at the other party directly in the eyes.

“Th, then? Y.....you would be.....”

“Camio, tell me quickly what exactly happened?”

The gazes of Maou and Camio met.

“Satan-sama.....Demon King Satan-sama.....you’re still alive.....wha, what kind of coincidental fate is this.”

“I’m sorry, letting you take care of the Demon World for so long. But I never expected that you would come to Japan.....come to this world. What happened?”

“De, Demon King-sama, I’ve let you down!”

The demonic bird warrior Camio dragged his injured body, planning to kneel to Maou. Even though Maou moved to stop him, but Camio shook his head and spoke,

“I.....I was unable.....to carry out the mission of taking care of the Demon World in Demon King-sama’s place. I cannot face the Four Kings.....unable to face the Northern General and Southern General who have died.....”

“What does that mean?”

“Demon King-sama.....the Demon World.....and Ente Isla, have fallen into conflict once again. I was too weak.....really.....I’m really sorry.....”

“H, hey! Camio! Hang in there! Hey!”

Camio’s eyes gradually lost signs of life.

At the same time, Camio’s body started to glow faintly and his body started to shrink.

“Demon King-sama, this is!”

Perhaps, because he had lost his demonic magic, Camio started to show signs of turning human, or rather, his magic was already fully used up.

The three people watched over Camio anxiously, and this transformation ended in a few seconds.

“Wha, what is this?”

Urushihara mumbled in surprise.

“.....Wha, what should we do about this.”

Maou stood at the side, stunned, because he didn’t know how to reply.

After the glow disappeared, at the scene, what were left were broken pieces of black armour, a dirty worn black cape, the shining jeweled sword still in its sheath, and----

“It looks rather cute.”

collapsed on the floor, an uninjured, black bird.

Chapter 3: The Demon King, realizing the vastness of Choshi and the World

魔王、魔王の魔界の魔界を魔界へ



The morning after the night time fireworks party was interrupted by the fog, Maou and the rest were awakened by the persistent phone call attacks from Amane.

According to Amane, since they came to Inubo, they have to watch the sun rising up from the horizons. However, to be honest, Maou simply did not care about such trivial things.

Maou did feel that this view was very beautiful, but in the past, he used to be able to see a panoramic view of the sunrise from his room at the Demon Fortress in Isla Kentourm.

As for Urushihara, after watching the sunrise with lifeless eyes, he immediately went back to sleep.

As Maou and Ashiya did not sleep well due to the events which occurred last night, they were very sleepy as well. As such, they were unable to find fault with Urushihara.

The weather for Choshi and Kimigahama today was sunny and fair, making it hard to relate to the heavy fog the night before. Before 8 o' clock, the temperature has risen to the point where one would sweat once coming into contact with the sun's rays.

As Maou heard from Chiho last night that everyone has arrived at the inn safely, and that Alas=Ramus had cheered up, the only worry left is the number of customers who would come today.

Today is also Maou and Ashiya's first day for officially opening the store, once the two of them had woken up, they started the preparation work.

Partly because it was the middle of summer, the sun rose very early. However, if they went back to sleep, they would not be able to get up before the deliveries arrive.

Amane reported to work at 6 o' clock and woke Urushihara up, and the four of them conducted the last checks before the opening of the store.

Would any customers come? Just like what Chiho and Ashiya worried about yesterday, this looked like a beach which no one would go to.

1st August, Maou's highly successful morning.

As if to blow away Maou's uneasiness, the beach which was practically empty the day before, many visitors from the seawater baths arrived at 8 o' clock in the morning.

As they were so many visitors, even if the only beach house on the beach Ooguro-ya mobilized the four people Amane, Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara, they were still so busy that there was no time for a break.

The "Sand sculpture , Blue Heaven Tower" which Suzuno made attracted a crowd outside Ooguro-ya because of its amazing appearance.

And crowds will attract more visitors.

10 o' clock in the morning, Ashiya's fried noodles attracted long lines of customers with its taste.

Ashiya, who was in charge of the food, was already constantly busy with just the takeaway customers.

Maou and Amane were in charge of serving the customers sitting at the tables within the store, who came to rest and to eat.

After Urushihara and Chiho polished the chairs, the total number of usable seats became 20. However, as they have to deliver food to the visitors seated at the clearing and the rocks outside the shop, Maou and the rest became extremely busy in a short time.

Of course, a beach house menu will have more than just fried noodles.

Even though Maou and the others got rid of most of the menu because they wanted to cut down preparation time and because of their inexperience, conversely, they were able to increase the variation of the type of dish they have concentrated on.

In general, Maou and the others got rid of the Ramen, which takes a lot of time and requires attention on the noodle cooking and placement of the

condiments. In place of that, they added fried noodles with two flavours, soy sauce and salt seafood flavour.

Even if they could not make Okonomiyaki because the space on the metal plate was taken up by the fried noodles, they would be able to use the space originally taken up by the Ramen to cook curry, mixing with either the pre-stir fried chicken or pork.

All the dishes were marked with a different coloured drawing paper, and together with the drinks, the menu and price were pasted within the store. This visual effect hid the fact that there was little variety in the dishes.

As a result-----

“Thank you for your patronage! Number 4, 2 pork, 1 chicken, salt, takeaway 3!”

“Number 3, 2 soy, 1 salt, 2 plain, soy takeaway 2!”

“Rock number 2, 5 chicken! Can it be served immediately? I’m sorry, the chicken has just been cooked, I will bring it to you later, please wait for a while!”

Maou is now facing a difficult situation where he needs to shout towards the kitchen.

‘Soy takeaway’ and ‘salt takeaway’ is used to represent the customers’ orders and whether they were eating inside or takeaway.

The number at the beginning is the table number, adding the ‘Rock’ word refers to the customers sitting at the rocks outside.

“Maou-kun, can you help with the delivery of the 4 plain for the next table? The pork ran out, I have to stir fry the pork!”

“I’ll be there immediately! Urushihara!”

“Impossible! I can’t handle it already!”

Maou asked Urushihara for help, but Urushihara was already too busy.

The new system, which logically would allow Urushihara, who did not have any experience in serving customers, to handle the sales of the shaved ice and drinks without having to worry about him making mistakes, currently had a flaw because of unexpected reasons.

Maou originally planned to have the customers operate the manual shaved ice machine themselves. With this, Urushihara would only need to handle the payment. In addition, because it is an independently operating store, they are able to use this informal business model.

Even if it is a rotating shaved ice machine which is not easy to operate, for Ooguro-ya, which did not have any facilities allowing it to sell ice cream, there was no reason not to sell shaved ice.

Maou and the others placed the ice blocks outside in advance, when the ice blocks need replenishing, it will be done by Urushihara. As the customers would be able to have some fun making their own shaved ice, even if the ice is not shaved well, they would be able to laugh it off in the end.

Maou also thought that many customers would be too lazy to shave the ice, so ignoring the costs to some extent, he prepared strawberry, lemon, honeydew and blue Hawaii, these four syrups for the customers to add on freely.

As a result, the customers would work hard to shave the ice themselves in order to try the various flavours.

In this way, Urushihara would only need to handle the payment and put in the ice, the rest will be done by the customers.

As they had prepared a large amount of cups and spoons in advance, they do not have to worry about those running out. After that, they filled the child sized pool which Emi bought back with ice, placing various drinks into it. Urushihara would just have to sit in front of it and be a human cashier, automatically accepting the money.....

“The current waiting time is 15 minutes! And the strawberry flavour has been used up, please understand! Thanks!”

Urushihara, who was extremely busy, shouted this at the customers waiting for the shaved ice and drinks.

“Eh~~”

“You can’t be serious?”

The long line of customers started to complain.

Compared to Ashiya’s teppanyaki, the sales of the drinks are more stable. However the shaved ice plan was too successful, which resulted in customers waiting under the hot sun.

Some of the customers were obviously feeling impatient. Not only were they frowning under the sun, they were hopping from one foot to the other on the hot beach sand.

There was only one shaved ice machine after all.

In order to minimise the number of unsatisfied customers due to being unable to properly make the shaved ice, they lowered the listed price by a lot. This is

one of the reasons for the long queue which was much longer than what Urushihara could handle.

“Demon King-sama! There isn’t enough salt flavour! We still need 10 minutes for the next batch to be done!”

This time, it was Ashiya’s turn to let out a wail.

Maou was feeling flustered because of the unsatisfied atmosphere and voices from the crowd in the queue.

“Is it enough to handle the previously ordered servings of salt flavoured fried noodles?”

“There are three servings left, so I’m still lacking one serving.”

Ashiya’s reply was very discouraging.

The amount of food estimated earlier was totally wrong. Considering the laid back business model of Ooguro-ya in the past, Maou estimated that the sales for this year should be 1.5 times of last year, so he prepared the corresponding amount of ingredients, but the result totally exceeded those expectations.

Ingredients wise, there was still sufficient amount left, but the both of them did not have time to prepare them at all.

“Maou-kun! Rock one, plain two and cola!” Ah! Seriously, I already lost track of which were served and which were not served yet!”

Amane looked at the orders which have not been completed and started to get confused.

Unless the seats are easily taken away by others, beach houses would normally use the system where customers would need to pay at the counter once they have ordered, but considering the number of customers and the quantity of the orders, Maou decided that this system would not work and changed it to having an order slip issued for every table.

As a result, because Amane was not used to doing business, she frequently made mistakes in the bill calculation. Moreover, with the large number of orders, the change they prepared beforehand was running out.

In addition, with the different bill calculation system from before, the frequency in which wrong orders were taken for the same table increased a lot.

“We, we ran out of order slips.....”

Unexpectedly, one book of order slips was used up in a very short amount of time.

“Amane-san, the spare books of order slips are at.....”

“Ah, I don’t know! If I did buy them before, it should be in the cupboard in the room where Maou-kun is staying, they haven’t been used for a long time after all.....”

With some difficulty, Maou pushed down the shout of “Why is it in that sort of place!”

If Maou left the dining hall now, Amane would have to handle the payment, serving of the customers and drink machine by herself.

The dissatisfied atmosphere can be felt from within and outside of the beach house, and customers have already started to leave in frustration. Unless a person had three heads and six arms like Asura, or is the Demon King of the Demon World, there was no way to solve the current situation.

The employees of Ooguro-ya were red in the face, covered in sweat and did not have any extra energy to handle the unexpected situation in front of them.

Just as the thoughts swirling inside Maou were about to reach their limit----

“Maou-san, please search for the order slips. I will help out during this time.”

The four people who were close to exploding heard this voice.

“Shiro-san should finish up the soy sauce fried noodle orders. I will prepare the ingredients for the salt flavoured seafood fried noodles during this time. I just have to chop up these vegetables and squid, and remove the back veins from the prawns, right?”

“Hello, is this South Choshi Ice Industries? Please send two shaved ice machines over, can you deliver them today? Yes, it doesn’t matter if there is additional transport fee or if they are old models, please send them to Ooguro-ya at Kimigahama..... ah, is that so? Then strawberry and blue Hawaii. Alright, thank you very much..... Fuu, even though I made the decision on my own accord, but looking at this situation, some necessary spending can be forgiven, right? The rental for one machine is 3000 yen, and it seems like they come with free syrup.”

Three rays of hope came from different directions.

Maou, unable to hide his shock, stuttered out,

“Chi-chan.....Suzuno, Emi....., all of you, why.....”

At this moment, three goddesses descended on Ooguro-ya, who had to work non-stop and were reaching their limit.

“Table number 2.....over there, alright, two beers and orange juice, as well as bottled cola, right!”

Without waiting for Maou’s reply, Chiho asked Amane about the table number and steadily fulfilled the accumulated drink orders.

“For now, I’ll prepare enough prawns to fulfil the current orders. Should be cabbage with finely sliced, or chopped into large pieces?”

With a cutting speed like a person exhibiting her sword drawing skills, Suzuno quickly cut the ingredients and removed the back veins from the prawns, and with just one look from the menu next to Ashiya, she started making the salt flavoured fried noodles.

“I sense a strong killing aura from the queue at the shaved ice area, can we give them any discounts?”

Emi asked Maou with a serious face.

A commotion occurred in Ooguro-ya, which was filled with extreme heat.

Once the swimsuit wearing girls spoke, the customers, who already felt frustrated because of the queue and the heat, started to stare at the employees who have appeared suddenly.

Part of the reason is because until now, there was only Amane in the store, who wore a T-shirt and stayed at the back, so most of the customers were happy about this.

“So the important point is still the youth huh.....”

Amane mumbled to herself, but it did not really matter to her.

Chiho wore a 2 piece orange swimsuit with a white hoodie over it, adding on a hat which was meant to block out the sun, this gives others the image that she was an “employee”.

Chiho nimbly balanced the heavy tray laden with drinks, and with a speed trained by a city outlet MgRonalds, she weaved between the customers and delivered the drinks with a smile.

Suzuno had put on an apron because she was helping out in the kitchen, and even though she was wearing a simply designed black halter neck bikini, the white ribbon around her chest and the plain dark blue apron matched each other well, causing this beautiful work attire to exude a healthy glow.

As Suzuno quickly finished chopping a cabbage with comparable with a beautiful sword drawing technique, the customers who were originally feeling frustrated because of the queue clapped in response.

As for Emi, she wore a leisure bikini with bright colours inspired by the southern countries, and with a beach towel tied around her waist and the large ribbons on her chest, she stood out a lot.

The three girls, with their different personalities, wore three different swimsuits which emphasised the unique attractiveness, but Maou was concerned about another thing altogether.

“Hey, where’s Alas=Ramus?”

“.....Don’t you have anything else to say?”

Even though Emi looked displeased, she replied while being wary of Amane,

“She woke up early to play in the water, and is taking a nap now. I’ve taken the liberty of letting her sleep in your room, so I would leave once she wakes up.”

When she was explaining, Emi tapped the back of her head with her fingers twice.

In other words, the two of them were joined together.

As long as this is confirmed, then there is nothing to worry about.

If the three girls were not around to help, they would not be able to overcome the difficulty in front of them.

“I’m sorry! Please, help us a little.”

“Alright!”

“Leave it to me.”

“I’ll say this first, all of you owe me one!”

The three people replied in different ways.

Maou rushed into the store and carried out four cardboard boxes, which had a little ice on their surfaces, shoving them to Emi.

“This, including those in the store room, it doesn’t matter if you give them all away, treat this at a lunch special and give it to everyone present!”



What Maou took out was the existing stock of Oletimin C.

If 4 boxes were given away, then they would lose 5000 yen, according the purchase price, but this was not the time to calculate such figures.

As long as they can provide a proper level of service to the customers present, this loss can be recovered easily.

On the other hand, if they do not handle the current situation properly, they might suffer an even larger loss from tomorrow onwards.

Emi walked towards the queue for the fried noodles and shaved ice in a more straightforward manner than expected, and weaved between the customers who were in a bad mood.

“Sorry to keep you waiting! This is the free drink from the lunch promotion!”

Emi started to give out the Oletimin C with a model business smile.

In reality, the attitudes of the male customers have all been softened because of the swimsuit Emi wore, and when under the hot sun, no customer would dislike a free ice drink.

If she could show that smile more often, she just might become cuter.

Frankly, compared to the swimsuits the three girls wore, the fact that their sudden appearance saved the store from a crisis was the thing that Maou was most surprised and felt happy about.

“I’ll be back soon!”

Maou, who made sure that the situation had eased, immediately headed towards the backyard in order to find the spare order slips.

In the cupboard in the room where the three demons lived, there were some boxes which looked like they were placed there for a long time. Maou opened the door of the room, and evened out his breathing in the cool air conditioned air.

Maou already knew the location of the cardboard boxes. After all, while in a panic, he had taken one empty cardboard box out for use.

“.....Camio, are you still alive?”

In the corner of the room, away from direct sunlight and the blast of the air conditioner, there was an especially large cardboard box. Maou, who peeked inside the box, said this.

“Sa, Satan-sama.....chirp.”

Inside the box, there was a small black bird moving around lethargically.

“Fu.....ah, I’m sorry, it’s good that you’re alive. I’ll come and find you later.”

Perhaps it is because of different reasons, but compared to Maou and Ashiya turning in humans when they lost their magic, Camio had turned into a small bird for unexplainable reasons.

His tone and voice was still as deep as the magical bird warrior from last night, but a bird like “chirp” now naturally came at the start and end of every sentence. It was difficult to understand why it this happened.

“I’m sorry chirp.....making you worry chirp.”

“It’s alright, it’s alright, I can’t help you much right now anyway, are you sure you don’t need to eat?”

“Sorry for letting you see me in such a pathetic state.....chirp.....because my magic has not fully dissipated yet.....chirp.....chirp.”

“Hee hee.....I, I understand, then, I’ll see you later.”

“Yes.....chirp.”

In order to allow the demon known as Camio to rest well, Maou stuffed a few layers of towels in the box. Moreover, there was a water bowl in the box and the air conditioner was adjusted to a temperature which was not too hot and not too cold.

Even though a normal bird would not be able to survive under these circumstances, but the true identity of this bird which is near death, is a great demon who even Ashiya would use honorifics when addressing him.

Demon Minister Camio.

If the Demon Generals Ashiya and Lucifer are considered soldiers, then Camio's existence is equivalent to a civil officer.

Not all the demons joined the Demon King Army and participated in the battle to invade Ente Isla. In fact, most of the demons have stayed in the demon world.

The organisation which Maou created can be seen as the first nation in the demon world, and when Satan attacked Ente Isla, the one who rules the nation's inhabitants on his behalf, is the Demon Minister Camio.

Camio, as Maou's representative, who also has an authority equivalent to the Demon King in the Demon World, why would he appear in Japan covered in wounds? As the person himself is exhausted, they still did not know the truth.

Maou and the rest only found out that Camio had woken up and was calling with a “chirp chirp chirp” the next morning. At that time, Urushihara had already woken up from the second time he went to sleep, and the three of them were making preparations for the opening of the shop. Therefore, they were unable to listen to a detailed explanation.

However, from the Camio who lost his true form, they could confirm one thing. Camio, the One Eyed Tattooed Demon and beast demon, did not come here to look for the Demon King Satan or the Demon General Alsiel.

So what could be their purpose, why did they appear in Choshi, why could they retain their demon forms, there were many questions which have yet to be answered.

The regretful thing , the really regretful thing, was that Maou did not have the luxury to investigate these issues.

Because Chiho and the rest, who believed in Maou and were fighting a battle outside, were still waiting for him to return.

“There’s still a workplace I have to return to!”

When Maou returned to the store in grief, the two rented shaved ice machines have been delivered swiftly.

It was less than twenty minutes from the time Emi made the call. Maou wasn't sure because he wasn't familiar with the surrounding area, but the store might be unexpectedly close. Maou quietly thanked the high efficiency of Southern Choshi Ice Industries.

“Urushihara! I’ll handle the ice, you concentrate on organising the queue and selling the drinks!”

Even though Urushihara expressed his displeasure to Emi, her decision was not wrong. Considering the visual effect, it was definitely be more desirable for the attractive looking Emi to be in charge of the role near the front of the store, however, as she is considered something akin to a trump card relief pitcher, and by doing so, it will not help in Urushihara’s development.

Maou ignored Urushihara’s protesting gaze, and after handing Chiho and Amane one book of order slips each, he returned to his own workstation, assisting with the orders and payment.

Just as Maou started to process the accumulated orders from the customers, Suzuno had already finished making the salt flavoured seafood noodles and was preparing in front of the large cylinder pot to replenish the curry which was about to run out.

If they maintained this allocation, they would be able to hold out until the end of lunch time.

Thanks to Chiho and the others, Maou was able to recover from his failures today. Tomorrow, they would need to learn from this and think of a way to patch up what they are lacking without having to borrow their power.

In conclusion, when you can still recover from your failures, you should take the chance to experience failure a few more times, it will be beneficial in the end. During Maou's first day of work, Maou finally understood what Kisaki's words meant.

Three o' clock in the afternoon.

After all the orders have been processed, the group could finally take a break.

The seats for eating in have already been cleared, and there was some noodles left in the corner of the metal plate, Maou pulled an empty chair over and sat down tiredly.

“I’m so tired----!”

Maou couldn’t help but grumble.

“Maou-san, Amane-san, here.”

Chiho passed a cold bottle of Oletimin C to the both of them.

“Ah, thanks.”

After Maou opened the cap, he gulped it down.

“So.....so cold.”

Maou suffered from a slight headache because he drank a cold acidic drink in one go, but at the same time, he felt very satisfied.

“But, thank you so much, Chi-chan. If you hadn’t come, we would have been goners. Always needing your help and causing you to worry, I’m really sorry.”

Chiho, who sat down beside Maou, nodded in acknowledgement.

“It’s great that I could help.”

“From tomorrow onwards, it’s possible that people would come because of Chiho. The swimsuit you’re wearing is nice.”

“.....Eh?”

Because Maou was too natural when transitioning from apologising to complementing, Chiho only started blushing some time after.

“Er, er, erhm, thank...you. Erhm.....”

Chiho, who suddenly was unable to look at Maou, moved her legs left and right, while staring at the Oletimin C in her hands.

“Is.....is it nice?”

“Yeah, that’s why I complimented you. This swimsuit.....you didn’t pack this right?”

Chiho shook her head, and looked towards Amane, who was washing the pan used to stir fry the noodle toppings.

Maou, who followed suit and looked in the same direction, noticed that Amane had gave the both of them a thumbs up. He did not know what she was thinking.

In other words, this meant that Amane was the one who provided the swimsuit, but when did she hand it over to Chiho?

“Originally, I wanted to refuse.....but that swimsuit looked kind of cute, so, erhm, I, I wanted.....”

Chiho, who wanted to say ‘I wanted to wear it for Maou-san to see’, lowered her head without saying anything while blushing furiously because she felt that this sentence seemed to be rather rude.

“That’s true. Since you’re at the beach, you would want to swim.”

Maou naturally explained what Chiho could not say.

“That, that’s right! Ah, ahahahaha!”

Chiho agreed with Maou, still blushing.

“Sigh.....”

And couldn’t help but sigh.

“Actually, it seems to be a product of the store.....”

“Eh? Really?”

Maou turned towards Amane, and Amane turned her head away while maintaining the thumbs up sign.

Other than food and drinks, to some extent, the Ooguro-ya also sold other products like sunscreen, plastic floats, floatation tubes, beach balls and so on.

From these products, the swim suit can be said to be a product which is difficult to sell. Even though it is a higher priced product, but normally, it is difficult to sell these.

Even though the products were set at a tourist price and aimed at the customers who forgot to pack these things, but logically, the customers who come to a summer beach bath without packing their swim suits are mostly those who didn't plan to swim or be in the sun.

The people who would buy these swimsuits would be the careless people who really want to bathe in the seawater, while being lazy to go back to town to buy one, and being willing to spend that money. That's why it was a product which easily has dull sales.

Even then, it was difficult to imagine any shop owner giving away their products so easily, but considering that Chiho and the rest could come over to help and enjoy summer at the same time, there was no reason to place the blame on Amane.

After all, just like what Maou had expressed honestly, that swimsuit really suited Chiho very well.

“Sigh, if it could be worn by Chiho, that swimsuit probably fulfilled its wish, you really look nice in it.”

“Ah, uh.....er, th, thank you.....”

“Hey hey, Maou-kun, I’ve been listening from before, aren’t you being too biased.”

Chiho’s face was so red that it looked like it was going to burn up, it was then that Amane interrupted.

“Chiho-chan isn’t the only goddess who helped us, right?”

As she spoke, following Amane’s gaze, Emi and Suzuno looked over nonchalantly.

“Ah.....erhm, hmm, how should I say this.”

Amane was right. Including yesterday’s preparations, if not for Emi and Suzuno’s help, Maou would not be able to overcome so many difficulties today. Therefore, Maou remained seated, placed his hands on his thighs, and thanked the both of them with a bow,

“Thank you, the both of you were a big help.”

Emi and Suzuno, not expecting that Maou would thank them in such a straightforward manner, looked at each other in surprise.

“..... Just like yesterday, I just want you guys in be in my debt. There’s no need to thank me.”

“It’s just like what Emi-san said. From our standpoint, we only helped because we thought that it would be troublesome if all of you lost the job, we don’t expect any rewards or thanks.”

Even though Maou had thanked them honestly, both of their reactions were still very awkward. As all this were within Maou’s calculations, he had no intentions to continue expressing his thanks, but unexpectedly, Amane did not give up.

“Hey hey, is that all? That can’t be all, right? Put in more effort.”

“Huh? Put in more effort for what?”

“That’s not how you say things, Maou-kun. Chiho-chan does look very beautiful in the swimsuit, but there are still two young girls here who showed their beautiful pearl like skin as well. If you don’t praise your wife a little, you’ll be suspected of having an affair. I may have given Chiho-chan her swimsuit, but the both of them prepared their own, as long as you praise them properly, you can improve your relationships by a lot.”

Even though it was not Amane's fault, but considering the relationship between Maou and the others, there was nothing else that could match the brainlessness of what she said.

“Eh.....?”

Maou showed a truly troubled expression and looked towards Emi and Suzuno in this strange atmosphere.

Then again, why did the both of them turn their back on him like they had planned it together? Maou felt suspicious, then he still spoke honestly,

“That, even though I am thankful for the help from both of you, but rather than saying that there is nothing to praise, it's more like there is no meaning even if I praise the both of you. Compared to that, for the both of you so prepare to come out to play so enthusiastically, I'm really surprised about that.....”

For females, the swimsuit is something that requires great determination to wear. At the same time, they would not dislike anyone praising the way they look in a swimsuit. Of course, Maou understood this common knowledge, and had to admit that Emi and Suzuno did look very pretty in a swimsuit.

But considering the relationship between the both of them and Maou, if Emi and Suzuno were asked if they wished to be praised by Maou, the answer would definitely be denial no matter what the circumstances.

But somehow, the conclusion which Maou came to after grasping the gist of the situation caused the backs of Emi and Suzuno to shudder, and they emitted a strange black aura reflecting their current emotions.

“.....Is there something wrong with your eyes?”

Maou’s comments, which can only be described as harsh, stunned Amane.

“Demon King.....Maou-sama! Please wait a moment!”

Unexpectedly, Ashiya was the one who chided Maou at this moment.

“You’re too honest! Even if you have to lower yourself, you should praise them!”

“Huh? But, even if I praise them.....”

“This is not an issue of who praising who. The organism known as the female will not feel unhappy even if they were praised by earthworms, mole crickets are water skaters! But you actually said that there is nothing much to praise. Even though you cannot expect Yusa to react so honestly like Sasaki-san, but she will still get complicated feelings!”

“You, really, what you said is too much. The words just now were really mean, earthworms or mole crickets, things like that.....”

“In addition, even though it was not our choice, Kamazuki has taken care of us every day. Just treat it as something socially appropriate, if you praise her properly, she might decrease the amount of harm she can cause us argh!”

Ashiya, who kept lecturing Maou with all his might, suddenly fell over towards the sand.

Maou and Chiho, who couldn’t catch him, moved back in unison. There was a pan used for frying noodles at the back of Ashiya’s head, and an abnormally large ice block fell at his feet.

“We do not wish, to be praised by all of you, not one bit!”

“That, that, that, that’s right. We already knew that there is nothing about our bodies which is worth praising.”

Emi and Suzuno, with gazes even colder than a demon’s, waged war with Maou on eye contact.

Perhaps it was a subconscious action, the two of them hugged their chests with tears in the corner of their eyes.

From Maou's standpoint, even if he had no special intention to praise the both of them, they did not have to take it to heart, but if he said such things in this situation, it would be just like adding liquid nitrogen on ice.

“Maou-kun, Ashiya-kun, I’m really disappointed in the both of you.”

Amane, who put in her two cents, adding fuel to the fire and acting like she knew nothing, hurriedly re-entered the store afterwards.

“Aha..... ahahahaha, erhm, Suzuno-san, the pan, erhm, pan.....”

The most innocent victim at this point of time was most definitely Chiho.

“Chiho-dono.”

“Ye, yes.....”

Suzuno, accepting the pan which Chiho picked up from Ashiya’s head and washing it in the sink again, said while looking at Chiho’s chest with what seemed like slight hatred,

“Even though it’s a little late to say this, but it would still be better if you reconsider.”

Of course, Chiho had nothing to say.

“So, would it have been better to praise the both of you?”

Isolated from the flames of war, Urushihara, staying at the drinks station whose work had ended long ago, asked Emi this with 100% evil intent as she angrily cleaned the ice residue stuck inside the ice shaving machine.

“Do you wish to die?”

From Emi’s reply, it was clear she intended to use the ice pick in her hand to stab him.

“Is that so, I understand.”

Urushihara deduced that everything Ashiya said was accurate, but decided to keep quiet in order to avoid being in life threatening danger.

By the way, Urushihara had opened the canned drink meant for sale without any approval and completely entered rest mode.

“.....Hey, if you have the time, then come here and help to clean the ice shaving machine. If the ice residue is left alone, it’ll start rusting when it dries. Then again, why am I the one cleaning it. I’ll cut you.”

Urushihara had pushed the duty he was in charge of to Emi, lazing at the side, and continuing from the atmosphere from before, Emi voiced her complaints.

Urushihara turned his head towards her, and to Emi, who was holding the ice pick and cleaning out the ice residue between the small spaces, he said,

“Oh yes, Yusa, taking this chance, there is something I want to confirm with you.”

“What is it, suddenly becoming so serious. If you praise me, I’ll cut you.”

“Never mind that matter. You know.....”

Urushihara exaggerated took a gulp of the acidic drink.

“Fwah.....about Olba, what do you think?”

As the surroundings were simply too noisy and bright, the atmosphere between the two could not be called tension filled for silent.

“Suddenly changing the topic, that’s low.....why are you asking about this?”

“No special reason. But you can’t be so optimistic to think that guy would quietly submit after being arrested by the Japanese police, right?”

“That’s true.....but I don’t even know where Olba is now, and even if I do, there’s nothing I can do about him.”

“If I tell you I know where he is?”

With the noise of the waves, beach and the crowd of people gathered at the beach house, the surroundings were really noisy.

“What.....did you say?”

“Olba is currently being charged at a detention house which is under Shibuya’s jurisdiction. Even though I can’t determine the exact location, but the prosecutors are planning to charge him with breaking the Law Controlling the Possession of Firearms and Swords and destroying property, of course this is just a temporary measure until they find evidence of us committing the serial robberies.”

“Why, why do you know these things?”

“I didn’t hack into any government websites. As long as one is determined enough, anyone can get this information. It’s just that the procedure is a bit troublesome. Especially since Olba was treated as a foreigner and arrested, the human rights group are pretty naggy when it comes to how to handle a charged suspect. There are a lot of false accusations recently after all.”

It looks like Urushihara had unexpectedly gained some knowledge about the Japanese society using his own methods, just as Emi felt a bit of respect----

“I hacked in the database of the human rights group.”

That respect was immediately withdrawn.

“.....Sigh, I’m not that clear about these things, but the law should have dictated the number of days allowed for detention right?”

“Wow, you actually know about these things.”

“I may look like this, but in order to be able to talk to other people in the workplace, I watch television dramas often. Although when one of the characters left the show during the sixth season of “Aitaka”, I was rather shocked.”

The Hero suddenly changed the topic to a period drama shown on television. Even though the both of them are enemies, Urushihara was still worried that she might start watching late night anime one day.

“That isn’t something to boast about, you know. Ah, 120 yen. Thanks for the patronage.”

Urushihara sighed as he passed the bottle of cola to the customer. Both him and Emi did not notice that this action had become very practiced.

“.....In reality, there are many cases of a person remaining in a detention house after being charged because of the lack of space in detention centres. The crimes Olba are being charged for aren’t serious, so he is in the waiting list until the detention centre has space. But this isn’t the issue.”

Urushihara continued to speak, showing a rare serious expression,

“After losing to all of you in Ente Isla, there are two reasons why I agreed to that guy’s suggestion. The first is simply because he said he will save my life. After all, after losing to all of you, I had nowhere else to go, and I didn’t have a good relationship with Malacoda, in addition, all of you wouldn’t have let me off.”

“.....Until now, I regret not giving you the final blow then.”

“Hey, you’ll make Alas=Ramus learn strange words like this.....eh, that’s right, talking about her, where is she right now?”

“I told Amane-san that she is currently sleeping in the room behind the store. But in reality, she is here.”

After saying this, Emi pointed at her forehead.

“Wouldn’t she cry because she is afraid of being lonely?”

For Urushihara, this was an unexpectedly normal question.

“She did wake up early in the morning to see the sunrise. In addition, she played in the water for a long time before coming here, so she’s taking a nap.....so, what is the other reason?”

“I see.....Olba mentioned it before. Because Olba was willing to help me negotiate with Heaven.”

Urushihara, Emi and the rest, they had been enemies in the past and had a fierce battle in front of Sasazuka station. At that point of time, the both of them never thought that, in the future, they would be running a business together in a noisy beach in Chiba.

“The Demon King Army had retreated at that time. And I had no place to belong in the human world. Therefore, my only hope was to return to Heaven. That guy said before that he had the materials to negotiate with Heaven, then.....”

“Negotiate, with Heaven?”

“I was one of the negotiating factors. In the end, if one was able to cause a legendary high ranking fallen angel to turn over a new leaf, it might be seen

as a great achievement worthy enough to elevate someone to a Saint status or even an angel, right?”

In other words, it was a different way of putting things. Following this logic, being able to treat a useless angel, even more worthless than a fallen angel, as a labourer and ordering him around, Maou was already talented and worthy enough to be promoted to an angel.

“And the other ace up his sleeve, is you, Emilia.”

“Me?”

For the problem to unexpectedly shift to her, Emi was so surprised she stopped what she was doing.

“Of course, it was just like Maou said before, perhaps that guy simply thought you were in the way. However, if that is really the case, then he really had no reason to stay in Ente Isla and get caught by Emerada and Alberto. Isn’t Emerada an important figure in a large empire? He should know that if he did that, other conflicts will arise in the future.”

“That, does make some sense.”

In reality, Emerada did mention through the phone that after she returned, the relations between the holy St. Aire empire and the Church gradually started to sour. After Olba’s actions were exposed, the secret unjust actions of the

Church bubbled to the surface, causing the impartiality of the nations on the Western Continent to come under suspicion, putting the Western Continent at a disadvantage in the competition with other continents to gain authority over the restoration effort of the Central Continent.

“I want to confirm one thing. The source material for your holy sword and evil repelling armour, the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’, who was originally the person in charge of managing it?”

Having been asked this by Urushihara, Emi felt that her face was involuntarily becoming pale.

“It’s the external relations, Missionary Department which Olba is in. Anything related to the use of holy tools is being managed by the Missionary Department.....because the holy tools are the most important things in the building of the various church areas and the Church.”

“As I suspected.....that guy should know that the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ is a fragment of ‘Yesod’. Or else I can’t see what other material he has which can be used to negotiate with Heaven.”

The reason why Emi hugged herself and shivered was definitely not because of the coldness of the ice.

“In order to fight with us, the Demon King Army, the Hero must have the holy sword and the Evil Repelling Armour. But Olba is different from Sariel and Gabriel, he already knew from the beginning that if he let you merge

with the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’, then it would not be easy to separate them from you. That guy doesn’t think that you would obediently hand over the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ once everything is over, and if he let you lead the political action after the restoration, not only will it undermine the power of the Church, he might be unable to recover the fragment of ‘Yesod’.....”

“.....In the end, why does Olba want to make contact with Heaven so much?”

“I’m not too sure about that. But I don’t think that Olba, with so many bargaining chips, would just stay in Japan’s prison so obediently. Even though I didn’t care so much about it before, but since I have to go out this time, I became a little worried after seriously thinking about many things.”

“.....Lucifer.....”

“If that guy causes trouble at this time, then I wouldn’t be able to buy the new Monster Hunter game which is bundled together with the GSP (Game Station Portable).”

“.....”

There was no salvation for this person, in various aspects, there was truly no salvation.

“You already said so.”

“Huh, what?”

“Basically the holy sword is supposed to be your problem, think about it more carefully already.”

“You’re noisy. Isn’t that why I am always doing all of you favours like now?”

“How is that even related. Even though you and Maou think that the problem is solved, but I don’t think that Gabriel would just give up so easily. That guy is notorious for beating around the bush and being persistent.”

“That.....I know that.”

Emi glanced at Maou and Chiho out of the corner of her eye and said this, her tone revealing her complicated feelings.

Just like what Chiho was worried about, Emi realised that she did not have any concrete strategies against the unknown threat from Gabriel and Heaven.

“However, if it’s the current me and Alas=Ramus, I’m confident that I will not lose no matter how many times they come.”

“That’s only limited to a one-on-one battle. The incident last night might have something to do with this, I am also unsure what strange strategies the other party will employ to attack our weak point.....”

Urushihara assumed that Emi and Suzuno also sensed last night’s demon attack.

“The incident last night, what is that supposed to mean?

Emi asked uncertainly.

“.....Eh? You didn’t notice?”

“Isn’t that why I’m asking you?”

The demonic magic Camio emitted last night was powerful, and even though he did not use any powerful techniques, Urushihara still did use holy magic.

Even though it wasn’t known where Emi and the rest stayed the previous night, but as long as they were within Choshi city, they should have sensed it.

“Hey, Emi, sorry for the interruption.”

Urushihara did not have the chance to explain further, as Maou, who had been talking to Chiho, called out to Emi.

The two of them lifted their heads, and saw Maou and Chiho, who have been talking in a relaxed manner just a while ago, walk over with serious faces.

“I heard this from Chi-chan just now, all of you were staying at Inbuo last night, right? Didn’t nothing really happen when the fog appeared last night?”

“Nothing happened.....I’m not even sure what you are asking about, what’s going on?”

Maou looked at Urushihara, and spoke in a hushed volume,

“I’m asking if you sensed any demonic magic or holy magic yesterday.”

“Eh?”

Maou secretly monitored Amane, who was washing the cutlery while talking to Emi,

“Come with me to the back room.....Amane-san! I’m going to the back!”

“Understood~”

Amane answered without turning around.

As work had not ended yet, the three people left Urushihara in charge of the outside, nodding to each other and moved towards the lodging room at the back of the store.

Of course, they remembered to wake up the unconscious Ashiya on the way.

After the group left the store, they found Suzuno standing next to the store, patching up the “Sand sculpture , Blue Heaven Tower” which were broken in some places due to being blown by the wind after it had dried up.

Wearing a swimsuit and doing this job, it naturally attracted a crowd. And Suzuno herself, acting just like a professional craftsman, did not care about the surrounding stares, fully focused on her work.

Even though this scene looks really beautiful, but considering her position, is it really alright for her to be so noticeable? Maou led the two people to the room at the back while thinking that Suzuno might feel troubled if people took pictures of her, he might as well help her erect a fence.

“Ah, she seems to be awake.”

Once Emi entered the room, she raised her head like she realised something and sat on the tatami.

Emi naturally assumed a position of carrying a child, then spots of lights came out from her body and as if matching the position, it assumed the shape of Alas=Ramus.

“That’s convenient, all the mothers in the world should be envious of this.”

“If they don’t mind someone crying in the night in their mind when they are already asleep, then I would consider posting the secret techniques of taking care of a child merged with me in a blog.....Alas=Ramus, are you awake?”

“Umm.....uh.....”

After Alas=Ramus appeared in Emi’s arms, she wriggled around, and waved her arms around in the air. And in her hands, she carefully cradled the birdcage firework which Chiho gave her yesterday.

Emi moved her free hand towards the girl’s waving hands and she used her small hands to grip Emi’s finger, slowly opening her eyes.

“Good morning, Alas=Ramus, are your diapers wet?”

“Mornin.....uh, not wet.”

Alas=Ramus rubbed her eyes, and mumbled her answer to Emi.

“Since Alas=Ramus is awake, then my help ends here.”

Emi said this while carrying Alas=Ramus, and Maou nodded with no objections.

“Yeah, thank you for your help. Oh, it’s out, this is what I wanted to show you.”

Maou pointed towards a cardboard box in the corner of the room. A long object was placed behind the cardboard box and was wrapped in a dirty and worn out black cloth.

Chiho and Emi peeked into the cardboard box.

“Ah, it’s so cute!”

Chiho couldn’t help but say softly.

“The little birdie moved!”

Compared to Emi, Alas=Ramus stretched out her hand, seemly eager to touch it.

“You can’t, Alas=Ramus, no touching. This bird looks really weak.....”

“Chirp.....chirp.....Satan-sama? Has your work, ended.....chirp?”

““?””

“A chirp chirp bird!”

Emi and Chiho shrunk back involuntarily because the little bird suddenly talked. Alas=Ramus looked very excited. As for the birdcage firework which was thrown some distance away, it looked very pitiful.

“Hey, Alas=Ramus, this is something Chi-nee san gave you, you should treasure it.”

Maou looked at the three different reactions with a happy look on his face, and picked up the toy birdcage, placing it in Alas=Ramus’s hands.

“Chirp.....hmm.....I feel the presence of humans. Satan-sama.....chirp, these people are?”

His appearance is that of a bird, and his chirps are very cute, but when matched with that heavy tone, it gave off a strange and mysterious feeling instead.”

“.....This is, a hill myna or something like that?”

“It seems.....to be very cute, but not that cute as well.....”

Chiho and Emi turned to Maou to ask him about the reason for this situation.

But Maou’s reply, gave both of them a strong shock.

“This guy is a demon from the Demon World. When the fog appeared last night, he suddenly dropped out from the sky.”

Demon Minister Camio. Emi had never heard this demon’s name or position.

Basically, she never thought that she would hear something like “internal affairs” from a demon’s mouth.

Apparently, this small black bird Camio, has been by Maou’s side as his strategist since his early days of starting his rulership as Demon King. At that time, there was not something as powerful and feared like the Demon King Army, and Ashiya and Urushihara did not know that someone like Maou existed. It was an old age where the Demon World was ruled by chaos.

Satan, who planned to unify the Demon World at that time, only had a small warrior troop that calling them an army would be embarrassing, but he still sincerely invited Camio to be his strategist.

Even though he was a powerful existence from the standpoint of the powerless humans, but Camio wasn't considered a high standing individual amongst the demons.

Even so, in the Demon World where power and viciousness is everything, Camio led a small tribe----with some whose powers are even weaker than humans----and survived.

Satan, who acknowledged this, looked for Camio in order to learn all the techniques needed to survive.

Originally Camio did not care about the young Satan who came from a weak tribe, but after witnessing Satan's deep insight, he joined in the end.

Of course, the experience and knowledge that Satan had, all came from the angel he had met when he was younger.

“Without Camio, I would definitely be unable to build the organisation known as the Demon King Army.”

Maou believed this.

To Emi, and the people of Ente Isla, this sentence was enough for them see Camio as someone who must die at once, but anyway, even within the Demon World, Camio was one of the few demons skilled and persuasion and negotiations.

Camio was well versed in the languages and customs of all the tribes in the Demon World, and can even hear the sounds of nature.

For him to naturally use Japanese shortly after dropping into Kimigahama may also be because of this ability.

At that time, Satan listened to Camio's advice, besides avoiding strong enemies, he also saved other tribes from extermination, and gained companions one by one with his negotiation skills.

And the greatest favourable turn for Satan and Camio, was their meeting with Alsiel.

At that time, Alsiel's tribe was a strong force in the lands, and just like Satan and Camio, he is a leader who planned to expand his influence with something more outstanding than 'power', which is 'wisdom'.

At that time, Satan's troop have grown to a certain size and was starting to become more well known, but at the same time, for so many tribes to gather in the same place, worries such as internal conflicts started to arise.

But after Alsiel joined, Satan allowed Alsiel to expand his influence through military matters and assigned Camio to mediate the conflicts between the troops, greatly increasing the power of the group. When they started to

notice, his group has grown to a large organisation where many demons from various parts of the Demon World wanted to come to join.

“Amongst the reformations which Camio set for the organisation, the one which surprised me was the flying dragon license act.”

“Flying dragon, license act?”

“What is, a flying dragon?”

Emi and Chiho were confused due to different reasons.

Flying dragons are a type of riding beast used by the Demon King Army for attacking. The best analogy, should be that it is a large lizard which can fly in the sky, but to ride this thing, who should they approach, and how can they apply for a license?

“There aren’t many flying dragons. In order to fight battles more efficiently, demons which are good at controlling the dragons need to be selected, and have a medal conferred on them, through this method, they are given a right to battle.

Just like this, being able to control flying dragons became a status symbol within Satan’s troops, greatly boosting the motivation and leadership of the demon troops.

“.....”

Emi never expected that the demons in the Demon World would possess such a high level society, and felt very surprised because of that.

In the end Satan unified the Demon World and became Demon King, when he attacked Ente Isla with the goal of conquering it, he appointed Camio as his representative to lead all the inhabitants which remained the Demon World.

And Maou had not asked Camio, why he and the other demon soldiers have dropped into Chiba's Kimigahama?

Of course, from Emi's standpoint, these words were hard to believe.

“When the fog appeared last night, three other demons like Camio really come to Kimigahama?”

“Little birdie, hug!”

It looks like Alas=Ramus really wanted to touch the real bird which was very different from the firework paper art, but Emi still maintained a strict expression, deftly stopping Alas=Ramus.

“Although, the One Eyed Tattooed Demon and beast demon are types which depended more on physical strength, but considering the distance between Kimigahama and Inubo, it’s not possible that we did not sense them.....”

“That’s right. In the beginning, I thought you would fly over straight away. Then again, you aren’t the one who caused his injuries, right?”

“If it was by my hand, I would have given him a fatal blow right there and then.”

“In other words.....someone other than Maou-san and Yusa-san, were the ones who defeated the demons from a foreign world.”

Maou nodded, agreeing with Chiho’s conclusion.

“I’m planning to go the lighthouse later to look around.”

“The Inubosaki Lighthouse? We just went there this morning.”

“Ah?”

Chiho looked at Emi as if she wanted to confirm something, and Emi nodded in reply.

“That place can be visited as long as the entrance fee is paid. The stairs leading to the topmost floor can be climbed as well. The signal box for the foghorn siren which sounded yesterday was there as well. But there’s really nothing that stood out or caught our attention.”

“The tower mascot on the sticker stuck on the stairs which said ‘how many steps left to the top floor’ is really cute.”

The special thing which Emi mentioned, probably isn’t a unique thing but it still warms people’s hearts in tourist spots.

“Those guys appeared after the fog formed, and after being swept away by the fog, they disappeared when the light shone on them. To say that the lighthouse with foghorn box has nothing to do with all this is hard to believe.”

“However, this is Japan. It’s not like Ente Isla where there is someone guarding the lighthouse at night, and that lighthouse was built in Japan very early on? How can it have things like spells or magic.....”

Just as Emi listed out her counter argument----

“Sqqqqwaaaakk?”

“Little birdie!”

Camio suddenly screamed.

It seems like Alas=Ramus, who wanted to touch Camio (or more accurately, the little bird), took the opportunity when the adults were discussing serious things to wiggle out of Emi's hands, grabbing Camio's tail and pulling him up.

“Ah, Alas=Ramus-chan, you can't do that!”

“Little birdie, cannot?”

“Let, let go of me, you human brat! Chirp!”

Even though Camio was shouting as he was grabbed by Alas=Ramus, but his state of flapping around like a humming bird while chirping and making a lot of noise, made it really difficult to think that he is the Demon Minister, the highest positioned civil officer in the Demon World.

“Hey, hey, Alas=Ramus, you can't! See, since the little bird shouting in pain?”

“It, it hurts, it hurts, my tail is going to snap! Chirp!”

As parents do not wish for their young children to use violence on animals or things----

“Isn’t that thing crying or shouting in pain?”

they would use this sentence to placate the child, but this was probably the first bird in the world that is really shouting and say it’s in pain.

“Arghsqwak!”

Alas=Ramus, who made Emi angry, reluctantly let Camio go. However, since Camio was flapping his wings so vigorously before, after he was let go, he sped to the corner of the room in one go.

Following the path, Camio hit the staff shaped item wrapped in a black cloth which was behind the cardboard box, and was squashed under it in the end.

“Hey, hey, Camio, are you alright?”

When the long item fell down, a baritone voice was heard.

“Ugh, chirp.....huff, it’s, it’s nothing serious.....”

This time it was Maou’s turn to be frozen in fear.

“It’s, it’s expanding!”

More accurately, Camio who was squashed underneath the black cloth, expanded like kelp submerged in water to the size of a chicken.

“Ku, ku, chicken!”

Seeing this, Alas=Ramus’s eyes shone.

As Emi froze in shock, Alas=Ramus made use of the opening to nimbly rush out, using all her might to tackle the chicken sized Camio.

“Ah, hey, Alas=Ramus!”

“Ugh, I, I won’t fall for the same trick twice chirp!”

But Camio will not be outdone. He pushed the thing squashing him away, using his short legs to nimbly grab the tatami, and escaped Alas=Ramus who was running over energetically.

“Ku, ku, chicken!”

“You’re just a human child, do you think you can catch me chirp?”

The room was temporarily filled with sounds of running and flapping of wings.

A black chicken flapping its wings and a silver haired young child with waving arms, kept running around in circles until they resembled a butter tiger, surrounding Maou, Emi and Chiho.



“Hey! Alas=Ramus! Stop that, you’ll fall.....”

Emi hadn’t completed her sentence when Alas=Ramus fell over.

She tripped over what Camio knocked down earlier.

Following the laws of physics, Alas=Ramus did one forward somersault with high momentum, and looked at her surroundings with wide eyes because she couldn’t grasp the situation.

“Are, are you alright, Alas=Ramus! Are you hurt?”

Maou frantically helped the girl up, but what was surprising was that Alas=Ramus shook her head like there was nothing wrong with her.

“Huff, huff, chirp, huff, chirp.....I, I won chirp.....chirp?”

On the other hand, the black chicken Camio, who didn’t look cute at all and was catching his breath in the corner of the room, was suddenly grabbed by the scruff of his neck and lifted by Emi.

“If you dare to cause Alas=Ramus harm, I will make you into fried chicken and throw you into the curry, be prepared!”

“Erhm, that, I don’t think that was completely Camio-san’s fault just now.....”

Right now, the only person who could talk sense into the two idiot parents, was Chiho.

“Alright, Alas=Ramus-chan, apologise to Chicken-san. You scared Chicken-san just now, right.”

Sensing that Chiho’s tone had turned strict, which was rare, even though Alas=Ramus almost cried, she bit her lip and nodded.

“Uh.....sowwy.”

“Oh, ohaha. You’re just, a human, child, it was just a small joke, I won’t blame her because of this small matter chirp!”

Even though Camio did not look as relaxed as he had spoken, he still forgave Alas=Ramus’s boisterous actions with an exaggerated way of speaking.

Emi regained her calm after seeing Chiho’s education methods, and feeling some embarrassment, put the chicken back into the cardboard box.

“.....So, going back to the original topic, if he didn’t come to fetch you, then what did this chicken come to Japan for? In addition.....”

Emi pointed at that object wrapped in the dirty black cloth which had squashed Camio and caused Alas=Ramus to trip.

“What is that? How did he turn big just now?”

“Uh.....before, before that.....”

Camio nimbly used his wings to massage his neck which had been gripped by Emi before and looked at Maou.

“Satan-sama, can I explain what happened in front of these people chirp?”

“Ah? Yeah, it’s alright.”

Maou nodded his head in a bold and generous manner.

“Eh, as you can see, these two people are humans. This girl is Sasaki Chiho, she knows mine and Alsiel’s true identity, and she had helped us a lot in this world.”

“Oh, is that so chirp. Human girl. On behalf of my master, I thank you.”

In the cardboard box, Camio got up, and he spread his wings as if he was pressing his hands against the floor, and gave a deep bow to Chiho.

“Ah, erhm, you’re welcome, I’m the one who was helped a lot by Maou..... ah, Satan-san.”

Following suit, Chiho assumed a kneeling posture and returned the bow respectfully.

This was the historic moment where a great demon from the demon world and a high school girl greeted each other in a Japanese fashion, displaying their understanding of each other.

“And, the little girl who grabbed your bottom and this lady, is the holy sword and the Hero respectively.”

Maou’s straightforward introduction caused Camio, Emi and Chiho to express their shock in different ways.

“Chirp?”

“Hey?”

“Maou-san?”

Camio stood up from the cardboard box and stared at Emi and Alas=Ramus with a stunned look.

It was expected that he would be surprised, but the shock felt by Emi and Chiho was on higher level.

“How can you say it in such a straightforward manner!”

Even though his appearance is just a chicken, but his true identity is a demon powerful enough to be a representative of the Demon King.

Since Camio is seen as an enemy from Emi’s standpoint, then the same would apply from Camio’s point of view.

“You say.....she is the He-chirp of the chirp-sword?”

“.....I think I should just make him into fried chicken and throw him into the curry, okay?”

“Stop that, it’s not as if he said it wrong on purpose.”

This time, it was Maou’s turn to stop Emi.

“Hey, Camio, don’t get it wrong. It’s not the He-chirp of the chirp-sword, it should be the chirp-sword ‘and’ the He-chirp.”

“Maou-san, please be more serious, if not, Yusa-san won’t listen to what any of you have to say.”

With Chiho’s calm rebuttal, they avoided the tragedy where Emi used metal claws to attack Maou’s throat.

“Satan-chirp.”

“Who’s Satan-chirp!”

“Satan-chirp!”

Alas=Ramus shouted happily.

This time it was Maou’s turn to attempt to grab Camio, but Camio avoided it with a quick movement.

“The Hero of the holy sword should be the main reason behind the defeat of the army which attacked Ente Isla. Why have you, become so close, with the Hero, and the holy sword.....chirp!”

There was a feeling that he had planned to ask this seriously until the end, but couldn’t hold it in at the end.

Ignoring that ‘chirp’ sound, Camio’s tone of voice sounded like he had no intention of lecturing Maou.

He just wanted to know Maou’s true intention----it was that tone of voice. Ignoring that ‘chirp’ sound.

The one who answered first was not Maou, but Emi.

“.....just going with the flow of events. Let me say this first, I am prepared to take the Demon King’s life anytime. If you dare to try anything, I won’t let you off easily. It’s best that you do not tell the other demons that I am the Hero of the holy sword, it will be better for you that way.”

As usual, Emi said things which sounded like the lines said by an antagonist, threatening the black chicken.

“.....that’s the way things are, it’s a bit more complicated in reality. In addition, I think you can understand.....wasn’t Alsiel our enemy in the beginning?”

“.....chirp.”

Maou sat cross legged on the tatami, talking with the chicken in the cardboard box in a gentle tone,

“Think back to how we conquered the Demon World. In this country, I saw a dream.....perhaps we can achieve the same thing with humans. Even if we are just following the course of events, even the Hero and I are able to work together.”

Emi and Chiho were definitely unable to understand the interactions between the two.

“That dream of rulership.....”

That was the contract which Satan and Camio set up a long long time ago. At the same time, it was also the reason why Camio decided to serve the young Satan.

“Being unable to support you together with the Eastern Demon General, I really regret it chirp.”

----If I win, even the enemies we were fighting yesterday, can become tomorrow's companions----

The only demon who understood that the meaning of rulership did not simply mean killing all enemies and turning the lands into barren wasteland.

“So I hope that you, would be able to wait just a little longer.”

Maou smiled.

“Hey, what are the both of you talking about?”

“Maou-san?”

Maou, with a troubled look on his face, turned to Emi and Chiho, who looked on anxiously.

“.....We were talking about how I unified the Demon World, and why the attack on Ente Isla failed.”

“What?”

“Even though you might find it hard to believe, but Camio is a reasonable person. He will not be biased against humans or the Hero. You should understand. Ever since Heaven shamelessly started to interfere, Ente Isla’s situation is not so simple such that it can be solved just by fighting and killing each other. In addition, even if we do have to deal with each other sooner or later, there is still the problem of Alas=Ramus. If we fight now, we might end up forcing Alas=Ramus into killing her own parents.”

Maou ruffled Alas=Ramus’s hair.

“Giggle~”

And Alas=Ramus accepted that hand, looking very comfortable.

“Even though our relationship is now enough to be able to eat at the same table, but you don’t plan to forgive me because of the current situation, right?”

“Of course, what are you getting at?”

Emi’s voice finally started to contain a dangerous air to it.

“I know that we would have to fight each other one day. But for the sake of that moment, and pertaining to what is happening now, we should share the minimum amount of information. If not, it might be just like the time with Gabriel, where Alas=Ramus would be in danger.”

“.....”

Unacceptable. Even though he is a Demon King, he was really too reasonable and logical, there was no room for her to present any counter arguments.

Emi knew. Even if the Demon King did not mention these things, she also knew this.

“.....Satan-sama has not changed at all, still as straightforward as ever when explaining things, chirp. However, we are still enemies, even if it could be understood from a logical point of view, things aren’t so smooth when it comes to the emotions.”

Seeing the state Emi was in, Camio sighed and said.

“He-chip of the holy sword.”

“Who’s He-chirp!”

“If you cannot accept it, you can just think of it in this manner chirp. Since we have the same enemy, it’s alright as long as we share information without interfering with each other’s situation, there is no need to fight hand in hand chirp.”

Emi glared at Camio who slowly stopped feeling repulsed about adding a ‘chirp’ at the end of his sentences.

“.....With things as they are now, even if you did not lecture me in such an exaggerated manner, I would understand as well. How about we just continue our discussion? I’ll just stay at the side and listen.”

In the end, Emi turned her back to the others in a defeated manner. After all, what Maou and Camio said were all correct.

Maou, Camio and Chiho looked at Emi's back with wry smiles on their faces.

After all, Emi herself knew these things as well.

"So, Camio, let me ask you again. What is the reason for all of you coming to Japan? What do you mean when you said that the Demon World and Ente Isla would descend into chaos once more? Also, what is this thing?"

Lastly, Maou pointed to the heavy looking rod like object which was wrapped in a black cloth.

Wrapped inside was the jewelled sword which Camio brought over.

Even though the armour he was wearing had shattered, and he had shrunk into the size of a small chicken, only this jewelled sword retained its original appearance and it had not lost its shine.

The reasons for why it was wrapped in Camio's cape, beside the worry that Amane might see it accidentally, it is also because Maou had a feeling that it was not just a fancy looking jewelled sword.

Until now, for the angels who came from Ente Isla, whether it was to obtain the holy sword, or kill Emi and Maou, their purposes were easy to understand.

But now there were demons who came to Japan for reasons other than to fetch Maou and the others. The things which could be deduced from this situation were too little. Filled with mysteries.

“That is.....”

Just as Camio opened his mouth, intending to answer Maou’s questions.

Someone knocked on the room door.

“.....Yes?”

If it was Urushihara, he would probably open the door directly and enter. If it is Ashiya or Suzuno, they would open the door after announcing their presence. If so.....

“Maou-kun.”

It was Amane’s voice.

It was an unexplainable feeling. Amane’s voice was no different from usual, it might be an illusion caused by the air conditioning, but he felt that the tone of voice of the other party was strangely cold.

“I heard a sound which resembled someone killing a chicken just now, is everything alright? But for husband and wife to fight when skipping out from work, it feels really interesting?”

Even though there are many places which were just aching for a rebuttal, but it might be because Maou haven’t returned for some time, which is why Amane came over to call for them.

Camio’s scream and Emi’s angry shout from before, could they have been heard from outside?

“Can I open the door?”

“Go, go ahead.”

Maou replied, while signalling to Camio “not to say anything”. Because she knew nothing about Maou and the others.

“Excuse me.....what’s up with that chicken?”

Amane’s appearance looked no different from just now, with her hair tied up and sweating slightly, and curry stains on her apron. After opening the door, she took off her sandals and entered the room.

Amane's black eyes did not turn to look at Maou, Emi, Chiho or Alas=Ramus. She stared straight at Camio.

Maou did not miss out this strange out of place feeling.

The moment the door was opened, Amane's gaze had stopped at the area above the cardboard box which held Camio.

As if she knew what was inside, and what had happened.

If it was just to check out the situation, then for Maou, Emi and Chiho, who had looked towards Amane, one of them would have met her gaze.

Amane stared at Camio and approached him.

“What, a black chicken? Do you guys plan to roast the chicken to eat?”

“Chirp?”

Camio let out a scared sound.

“That.....I discovered this injured chicken last night.....”

Maou explained with difficulty. How lost must it have gotten for a chicken to run to the beach? But Maou couldn't think of other reasons at that time, and also, it wasn't considered a lie as well.

Even when Maou was explaining, Amane's gaze did not shift at all.

"There aren't any farms raising chickens nearby, so I guess it might be someone else's pet? It would be better if the vet hospital nearby was contacted."

"I, I got it."

"Also, Urushihara-kun keeps complaining, asking you guys to come back soon. Even though there won't be any crowds anymore, but it's about time to clean up."

Maou felt that she seemed to be slowly easing the tension.

Thinking about it, there was a chicken in the middle of the room, so its presence is very obvious, and Maou and the others have talked for very long, it wasn't strange for Amane, as the employer, to come and say a few words.

After shifting his feelings a little, Maou lowered his head and answered,

"I'm sorry, I'll be returning now."

“Yeah.”

After saying this, Amane finally stopped staring at Camio.

“.....Uh?”

“How small. I wonder what kind of adult you would become in the future.”

“Fwah.”

Once Amane saw Alas=Ramus in Emi’s arms, she gave a secretive smile for an unknown reason, lightly patted the girl’s head and left the room.

“.....So, it looks like we have to end our conversation here.”

Since he is being employed, he cannot go against his employer’s orders.

It was referred to as closing for the day, but it was only evening now. As beach houses will close for the day before the sun sets, there will still be time to talk later.

“.....I will stay to hear the rest, go and work.”

Emi said softly.

“Ah?”

“.....I said I will stay! If there is a need to act immediately, I will let you know immediately, go and work already!”

Emi glared at Maou who looked like he was going to say like she had an intention to kill him with her stare.

“That, that would be a big help.....is that alright?”

“It doesn’t matter, isn’t that what all of you lectured me about?”

Of course, Maou and Camio would not know that when Emi said ‘all of you’, Chiho was also included within.

It was obvious that Emi herself still did not accept the current situation, as of right now, she was face in the face like she could cry any moment, but she was still a warrior who had seen fierce battles, and wasn’t a person who did not know how to read situations.

“.....Then, I’ll leave it to you.”

“I reject your plea! I just want to listen to it as well!”

“Alright, alright, that’s fine. Then, Camio, I’m sorry, you and her can.....”

“It was that woman just now.”

“talk.....ah? What did you say?”

In Camio’s short sentence, the ‘chirp’ sound no longer appeared.

“That woman just now.....has a power that far surpasses mine, like the power of a god.”

“.....Are you talking about Amane-san?”

Maou and Chiho, even Emi, stared at Camio, not believing what they heard.

With a small beak and round moist eyes, the Demon Minister nodded solemnly.

“That’s the woman.....who used a great dragon’s roar to engulf my soldiers.....”

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Ooguro-ya closed for the day when the sky started to turn red.

It was after 5pm after all. Only the customers using the showers and coin operated lockers were left.

Maou and the others scrubbed the metal plate, cleaned the cooling box of the drink cooler, covered the ice shaving machines, and checked the remaining ingredients, drinks and other products.

Amane printed out the sales record of the day with the cashier, and announced an estimate of the total sales that way to everyone.

“For today, just the amount from the cashier.....is 350,000 yen.”

Amane revealed the sales record with a smile.

Even though we still have to collect and count the money from Urushihara-kun’s drinks and shaved ice, Ashiya-kun’s takeaways, the showers and the lockers.....but it should be about 500,000 yen. It should be the highest record in the history of this store.

However, if not for Chi-chan and the others helping out today, we might have messed it up halfway, and there is still the extra expense for the small change. Regarding this, we still need to reflect on this.”

Maou held the sales record, comparing it to last year's account book.

Regarding the overflowing work burden due to the underestimation of the customer numbers, there was a need to reflect on this, but just based on the numbers on the accounts alone, it actually totalled up to twice more compared to the sales last year, a godly number.

In some way, this can be attributed to Maou's strategy, but the root reason is that the business model of Amane's family was really too relaxed.

“Don't be so serious. It looks like I would need to give out bonuses, let's do that. If this can happen every day, I have no choice but to give out the bonuses! Ah, Yusa-chan, Chiho-chan, Kamazuki-chan, this is for you.”

Amane stopped the three girls who have changed out of their swimsuits into normal clothes and were preparing to return to the hotel.

“This is the pay for two days of work. You were a big help, thank you very much, all of you. Especially Kamazuki-chan, I added the fee for the sandcastle. If it's convenient, I really hope that you can come every day to help make it.”

Suzuno's masterpiece “Sand sculpture, Blue Heaven Tower” stood out, and crowds will attract more crowds, with question, this was one of the factors behind their success.

Maou seriously contemplated if he could use Suzuno's special talents in other areas in the future.

When Maou returned to work, the mysterious feeling which Amane gave off within the room had dissipated.

And Chiho, who continued to help, seemed to revert back to her original pace immediately.

Even then, Maou still felt a little uneasy.

One reason, of course, is because Camio said that he was attacked by Amane, in addition, Emi's current state was felt unnatural.

About one hour after Maou returned to the store, Emi came out carrying Alas=Ramus, but in anyone's eyes, she had a gloomy expression on her face.

Even when she went to the beach with Alas=Ramus, Chiho who ended work and Suzuno to play, Emi's face would suddenly darken occasionally.

“It's such a pity, everyone is going back tomorrow.”

Amane seemed to really want to have the three people stay, but Emi just happened to get a long holiday from her work, and Chiho had already made an agreement in her parents. Even though Amane didn't look like she was

serious about persuading to stay, but the three of them knew that she sincerely felt regret.

“.....Oh?”

In the pocket of Maou’s shorts, a message vibration from his mobile phone was heard.

“.....”

Of course, Maou was not so dumb as to look at the person who sent it.

“What’s up, Maou. Your face looks a little dark, you know?”

“The same goes for you, Urushihara. Besides, it’s just a tan.”

For the demons who had worked for a whole day at the beach, their skin had turned into a light wheat colour.

Amane went to find Chiho to take a commemorative picture in front of the castle which Suzuno made, and Maou, who realised the unimportant fact that demons could also get a tan, waved to Urushihara and Ashiya, making sure that Amane did not notice.

“I’m going out tonight, the both of you should come along too.”

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Inubosaki Lighthouse was designed by a British engineer, Richard Henry Brunton, built under his supervision, completed and lit in the seventh year of the Meiji era.

T/N: The seventh year of the Meiji era is 1874.

Affected by the war, the design of the lighthouse was redone a few times and was one of the six first grade lighthouses in Japan, and the light shone by the first order Fresnel lens can be seen 35 kilometres out.

A beam of light shone across the quiet dark seas, Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara were carrying a small cardboard box, confronting Emi, who stood under the source of the light, the lighthouse.

“You’re alone.....where’s Chi-chan and Suzuno?”

“I explained everything to Bell, just in case, I asked her with stay with Chi-chan.”

Maou thought, she can’t be talking about fighting at this point in time, or did Emi think that “something” would happen after this meeting.

His missing precious daughter, might be the key to answering this question.

“Where’s Alas=Ramus?”

“She’s here.”

This time, Emi didn’t point at her head, but press her right hand as she said this.

“What’s happening. It can’t be that you called me out here so you can settle things with me in this kind of place?”

The message Maou received as he was closing up was sent by Emi.

Not just his mobile phone number, Maou had no recollection of himself telling Emi his mail address, it was probably obtained from Chiho.

“Bring Camio and come to the lighthouse at 11pm tonight, and do not let Amane-san find out.”

The contents of Emi’s message were very concise.

Maou did not agree and did not reply, but Emi seemed to know that Emi and the rest will come.

“Even though that would be rather interesting, but you guessed wrong. Camio, tell him. The reason I asked the Demon King to come.”

“Chirp, I have no choice then.”

Camio’s voice was much clearer compared to before, it looks like he has almost recovered.

The three demons turned towards the small bird in the box. The Hero and Demon Minister had discussed this earlier, what did they plan to announce.

The sea scenery which can be seen when looking at Choshi from Inubo, the colour of the sea gave people a black ominous feeling.

A cold wind which did not match the summer night blew through the hair of the inhabitants from a foreign world.

“Satan-sama, Eastern General-dono, Lucifer, this country might be facing a crisis right now chirp.”

“Really, why you do drop the honorifics every time you talk about me.”

Camio ignored Urushihara’s complaints and continued to explain,

“When I heard that the Hero Emilia and the child of the holy sword is here chirp, I really got weak at the knees. Currently there is a power not part of the Demon King Army and not from the demon world attracting many demons and fervently looking for ‘Emilia’s holy sword’.”

“A demon not part of the Demon King Army, and not an inhabitant of the Demon World? What does that mean?”

Maou looked down at the chicken in the cardboard box he was holding.

“Chirp, it was something which happens tens of days ago. A human visited the demon capital of the Demon World Satanasarc, and announced that as long as the ‘holy sword’ is obtained, the power to conquer the Demon World, Heaven and Ente Isla, the three worlds, can be obtained chirp. Those angry battle oriented clans who decided to take revenge for the Demon King-sama were riled up by that person’s sweet words chirp.”

Behind Maou, it was not just Ashiya, even Urushihara had sucked in a breath in surprise.

A human actually visited the Demon World, in the long history of the Demon World, this has never happened before.

A normal person would lose consciousness for just being in contact with the magic from the Demon World.

Even just standing next to Maou in his fully restored Satan form, had caused Chiho to be unable to breathe just by coming into contact with the magic.

“According to Camio, after the defeat of the Demon King Army, the Demon World was split into two factions, the ones who decided to take revenge for you, and plans to gather up a second invasion army, the war advocates, and the ones who believe you are still alive and intend to preserve national stability, the moderates. Camio spent a lot of effort trying to mediate between the two factions, but that human tilted the balance of the Demon World.”

Surprisingly, Emi was the one who explain the situation of the Demon World to Maou, it was a strange sight. Emi ignored the confused Maou, and continued,

“That human said that there were two holy swords, and this is one of them.”

Emi did not check if there were any normal Japanese people nearby, and openly revealed her own holy sword.

The ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’.

It was the part of the holy sword with the meaning of being the “Kinder Half”.

“There aren’t many humans who know that the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ is with me in Japan.”

Hearing this, Maou finally understood the situation.

The reason why Sariel knew about the location of Emi and the holy sword from the start, and where he had obtained that information from.

In Ente Isla, it was true that only a few 'humans' knew where Emi's holy sword is.

Her past companions, Emerada and Alberto, and Suzuno---Crestia Bell, who Emi met in Japan. Besides that, there was also the six archbishops from the Archbishop Chancel, who had heard from Suzuno that Emilia was in the human world before Suzuno arrived in Japan, and----

"The human who disappeared without a trace, taking the war advocates with him, he introduced himself as Olba Meyers chirp."

"What is that guy thinking, and what has he done now? Then again, when did he escape?"

The one who was most shocked about this name, was the one who thought about many things concerning Olba, Urushihara.

Knowing that Emi is in Japan, showed hostile intentions towards her, and did not change in his ways. Only Olba fit this description. Even though they had

a feeling that it would be him, it was still rather unbelievable when they heard it for real.

“I do not need to show mercy.....”

Ashiya, who had directly fought with Olba before, gritted his teeth and clenched his fist in regret.

“Camio-sama, who is the one leading the war advocates who followed Olba?”

“It is the Lieutenant of the Southern Demon General Malacoda, Barbariccia-sama, chirp.”

“Don’t use such a Pokemon like style when you speak when we’re talking about serious things!”

Maou clutched his head with some force.

“If we do want to talk about this, there really is no need to choose such an open place, we can just talk at Ooguro-ya. Amane-san has gone back anyway.”

“You should have heard it at that time, it might have been Amane-san who defeat Camio and the others.”

“I did hear that.....”

“Perhaps you might have forgotten because of that person’s straightforward personality, but she is still the niece of that landlady. Don’t forget, even though she may not be our enemy, she might not be a normal human either.”

Emi still had a stern attitude.

But this time, the sternness was different from before, it gave the feeling that she was lecturing Maou for reasons other than just simple hostility.

“Even if Amane-san has mysterious powers which we do not know about, and is the one who defeated Camio and the demon soldiers.....we cannot leave it to her to handle the incident which is going to happen.”

“The incident which is going to happen? Are you saying that something will happen later?”

Camio answered Ashiya with a “chirp chirp chirp”.

“I feel that foreign worlds should not be involved in our war, so I planned to sneak here to confirm Emilia’s holy sword before the war advocates, riled up by the human, cause a commotion in the foreign world chirp. As Olba Meyers only mentioned that the holy sword is somewhere in Tokyo in the

foreign world country of Japan, I had no choice but to set the ‘gate’ over the sea, and conduct an extensive search from the eastern area.....”

In other words, for Camio to appear in the eastern most point of the Kanto region was not a coincidence at all.

“Let me say this first, this is Chiba, not Tokyo.”

“However, doesn’t Chiba have a lot of facilities whose name starts with ‘Tokyo’?”

“Shut up, Lucifer. That’s not the issue here.”

“It might not be purely a coincidence chirp. Olba provided clues to find out about the holy sword’s whereabouts, and a reaction appeared from this region after I used it.”

“Clues to find the holy sword?”

It felt like someone had talked about a similar topic recently.

Before Maou could remember, Camio had already continued speaking,

“But I have turned into this state. Faced with the strong powers of this world, I couldn’t do anything.....”

Camio lowered his head in guilt, Emi helped him explain,

“The huge squad led by the war advocate faction, is approaching Japan..... approaching Earth!”

“Ah?”

“What did you say?”

“Why didn’t you say so earlier!”

“Chirp!”

Urushihara, Ashiya and Maou showed their surprise at the same time, and Maou even dropped the box holding Camio because of that.

“A, according to previous reports and the calculated scale of the ‘gate’, I predict that they would arrive today, in the middle of the night.....they plan to start at this eastern most region, and start their extensive search with their large numbers chirp.”

The black chicken slowly climbed out of the box, and sat on the ground, his feet tucked under his wings.

“Honestly, that woman’s power is totally abnormal. It’s hard to guarantee that the soldiers who appear later will not meet the same fate as me and the others.....”

To make things clearer, Camio was implying that even that third party troop would not be a match for Amane-san.

It was unexpected that Amane would have such a large amount of power despite being a human, and Maou, who knew this indirectly, still did not... feel its reality, but Camio’s attitude was serious.

“Even though he had broken off the relations one sidedly, but Barbariccia-sama is still a comrade who planned to unify the Demon World. I am reluctant to be his enemy, and more than that, I cannot just sit by while the subordinates incited by him clash with that woman, which would lead to unnecessary sacrifices.”

“Not that what happens to the demons concerns me.”

Emi clearly stated and drew a clear line between herself and the demon forces.

“But this incident has something to do with Olba, so I can’t just sit by and do nothing. This has nothing to do with whether Amane-san has superhuman abilities, I don’t care if she is an enemy or a friend.”

Emi glared at Maou.

“If the Demon King Army came to Japan to steal the holy sword, then you and I, who brought the conflict to this country, would have to take responsibility and chase them away. How can we push everything to Amane-san?”

Just then, the light from the lighthouse swept over the sky above Emi, who made this resolute declaration.

“.....I hope she is our comrade.....basically the landlady and Amane-san are good people, without them, we would have been jobless.”

Maou gave a lonely smile.

“Emi.”

“What is it.”

“.....I’m surprised that you believed all this.”

“Eh?”

Instantly, Emi’s expression became guarded. After all, from what Maou said, it was like he was hinting that he had asked Camio to tell a lie.

“Aren’t you worried that this is a trap set up for you by a dying demon in order to save me?”

“.....What, so you were referring to this?”

However, Emi replied in a disinterested manner,

“Even if you and that little chicken want to frame me, what can you do to me?”

Emi’s attitude was filled with confidence, but it also looked like she did that intentionally.

She puffed out her chest with all her might, giving the look that she was looking down on Maou and the rest, but changed her mind halfway.....or rather, she relaxed her expression because she thought it was too idiotic.

“Don’t look down on people, alright?”

“Ah?”

Emi frowned and placed her hand against her forehead.

“Because when you let me discuss things with Camio, didn’t you allow Chiho-chan and Alas=Ramus to be present? So.....”

“Ah, hmm.....ah? So? What does that mean?”

It’s like he understood, but did not understand as well at the same time. After further questioning, Emi looked like she wanted to escape Maou, turning her face away, with her back facing Maou.

“Because even though you’re the leader of the evil demons, and you’re poor and underhanded, is father’s sworn enemy and the enemy of all humans, basically space trash, residue in the Earth’s orbit! But.....”

Even though she was displeased from the bottom of her heart, Emi still continued shakily,

“You’re not the type of person who is willing to betray Chiho-chan and Alas=Ramus and lie, at least with you guys, I still trust you to this extent! So.....”

After glaring at Maou and the others in order, who had started blinking because of the aura she gave off----

“With regards to this, you have to take responsibility together with me!”

Emi's shout cut through the night at the cape.

“.....Do you understand? If you understand, then quickly forget what I said just now! You space trashes!”

Emi shouted with such vehemence that it felt like she was going to throw the holy sword which contained Alas=Ramus.

The waves seemed to settle down because of Emi's cry, and an awkward silence descended.

“Even though it feels like you don't trust us at all, and this doesn't seem to have anything to do with space trash.....”

Maou nodded while looking at a flash going across the night sky.

“Thank you, thank you for believing us.”

Perhaps it was an illusion, it felt as if Emi's expression softened because of this sentence.

However, that warm expression was only a fleeting illusion, because afterwards, Emi spoke with such resentment comparable to the King Yama from Hell.

“Didn’t, I, tell, you, to forget?”

Emi waved the holy sword, and the light reflected off it cut through the darkness like the light from the lighthouse.

“Erhm, erhm, Alas=Ramus will do what I can too!”

Even though Emi’s stance looked as regal and holy as the female warrior god, but from laidback voice from the holy sword, it caused the atmosphere to go both ways.

However, it was good that way too.

“.....It’s really such a strange fate chirp.”

“Seriously. But, what should we do? If a Demon King Army is really attacking, honestly, I don’t think I have any hope of winning.”

“About that chirp, I have a good idea chirp, the jewelled sword which I brought.....”

Just as everyone tolerated the ‘chirp’ which was starting to become annoying, and were carefully listening to Camio’s proposal,

The light from the lighthouse which shone on the seas faraway, for an instant, shone and showed----

a cracked open darkness.

“.....Have they come?”

Surprisingly, the first one to sense the abnormality was Urushihara.

Even though Maou, Emi and Ashiya did not know about it, but when Gabriel attacked, the first one to sense that someone had opened a ‘gate’, was Urushihara.

Following Urushihara’s line of sight, everyone present couldn’t help but suspect their own eyes.

Between the night clouds, a clear black crack had appeared across the sky without anyone noticing.

“.....Hey hey hey hey, that does not look like just one squad at all.”

Looking like it would cover the night sky, countless black shadows appeared from the crack like bats, or migrant birds about to go on a long journey.

“Far reflecting eye!”

Urushihara said softly to himself, focusing on the shadows which current look like clouds.

“It’s as what Camio said, even though Barbariccia is nowhere to be seen yet, but all of them are Malacoda’s previous subordinates, demons from the Malebranche Clan.”

“You can see what’s there from here?”

Emi squinted, staring at the sea, asking Urushihara in surprise.

“It’s only a simple spell, I am half an angel after all, and recently I have been eating Bell’s cooking every day. The ingredients that person uses has been blessed, are there are questions?”

When driving away the mist which was about to catch Camio last night, the reason why Urushihara’s wings were white, was most likely because of this.

But right now, it was not the time to ask such questions.

“.....Why have they not lost their demon appearances even after coming to Japan?”

Ashiya asked another kind of question.

“How would I know. If it isn’t that they brought an item which can provide them with demon magic, then it has something to do with the ‘gate’ that hasn’t closed, right?”

No matter what, the group is unable to tell at this point of time.

The reality is that a Demon King Army which are able to maintain the same forms which they had in the Demon World, had appeared in front of Maou and the others and are approaching Japan.

The Malebranche clan led by the Demon General Malacoda, are said to be, in human terms, a clan which is good at necromancy.

Humans’ understanding of necromancy was limited to thinking that it was a forbidden skill which revives and controls evil spirits or dead bodies; but in reality, that was just a simple puppeting skill, just the insertion of magic into a dead body and controlling it, if the control from the skill user was missing, the puppet itself does not have any individual fighting ability.

The Malabrade clan head Malacoda, who was skilled as using the gaps in human hearts, was ranked the lowest amongst the Generals led by Satan.

The size and stature of the members of the Malebranche clan is similar to that of humans, with their identifying characteristic being their bat like wings a very long sharp claw extending out from all four of their limbs.

“I did a rough count.....there’s about 1000 of them.”

That was already a very shocking number. Since they can be seen from Inubo, the ships at sea might have noticed the demons as well.

“The people on the ships out at sea might be in danger! I’ll be heading out first!”

Emi took a nutritional supplement bottle out from her pocket and drank it in one gulp.

Then she wiped the corners of her mouth with the back of her hand, and focused her power on her feet, after that her whole body started to glow brightly.

“We’re going! Alas=Ramus!”

“Oh!”

“Heaven Light Boots!”

Before Maou could stop her, Emi had become a shooting star, flying towards the ocean.

The demons from the Malebranche clan seemed to detect Emi's strong holy power, and the shadows which appeared in the night fluctuated, like they were assuming a formation.

“Hey, Camio, what should we do? What were you saying about that sword just now?”

Maou and Ashiya had only the minimum amount of magic, and Urushihara, who could only use simple spells, had not recovered enough power to be able to put up a resistance against such a huge group.

If this goes on, the group could only watch Emi and the Malebranche clan fight each other until the incident ends.

“Chirp! This isn't good chirp! That's right, Satan-sama, I brought the jewelled sword of this country, as long as Satan-sama draws the weapon from its sheathchirp?”

Camio finally realised that Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara were glaring at him in a worked up manner.

“Camio, that's no good, that's no good at all.”

“I never expected that the great Camio-sama would.....”

“Lu, Lucifer? Eastern General-sama? What’s, what’s wrong?”

“If you think that thing is important, then it should have been taken along when we went out, idiot!”

Maou grabbed Camio and lifted him up.

“Ah! Chirp?”

“What are you chirping for, idiot! You should have known beforehand that the sword would be of use, right? Do you expect us to leisurely go back to Ooguro-ya from Cape Inubo to get it? During this time, Emi would have gotten rid of all of them already!”

“Chirrrppp.....Satan-sama.....it’s hard to breathe chirp!”

“Ah, seriously, it’s useless even if I strangle you here and eat you. Hey, Ashiya, we have no choice, run back quickly and get it.”

“Un, understood.....ah!”

Ashiya turned around frantically and ran, but after running just five steps, he fell over.

When a big guy over 180cm tall shows his clumsy side, the audience will only feel frustrated.

“.....Be, because I’m wearing beach sandals which I’m not used to, so just one misstep.....”

Ashiya himself seemed to know this very well, getting up quickly like he wanted to avoid the cold stare at his back, preparing to continue----

“Yo, were you guys looking for this?”

A person suddenly held out something in front of him, causing him to brake abruptly.

“I was thinking why this sword did not match the size of Bird-kun, and it looks like this is a weapon, or more accurately, your trump card.”

The person who came had a beautiful and resolute face which was free of makeup, wearing a simple T-shirt and apron, and in that person’s hand, is that sword which did not lose its shine even though Camio’s black armour had shattered and become a small bird.

“Amane.....san?”

“That’s right, I’m Amane-san~~”

The substitute store owner of Ooguro-ya, Ooguro Amane replied with her usual bold smile and a wave.

“Seriously, I was thinking why there was still a small trace of the magic which I logically should have sent back. Look at this sword, if you take it out from its jewelled sheath.....”

Amane slowly drew out the jewelled sword which was in its sheath, wrapped in Camio’s cape.

The jewelled sword, freed from its sheath, had a blood red blade.

“As you see, this is a magic sword.....hmm, just pulling it out of its sheath a bit is overdoing it a little. What do you plan to do to this thing?”

Amane kept the sword back in its sheath, looking straight at Maou.

“Ah, at this time, don’t play the card of “Oh my, Amane-san, what are you doing here”, that’s too cold. You can just explain how you are going to use this sword, and what you plan to do.”

Amane asked in a leisurely manner, as if she was asking about the ingredients to prepare tomorrow.

Excluding Ashiya, whom the sword had appeared in front of from the start, even Urushihara, Camio and Maou were unable to hide their shocked expressions, and were hesitant in replying.

Just as they were hesitating, the battle between Emi and the Malebranche clan had already begun.

“Buck up! Maou Sadao!”

Amane shouted to garner a response from Maou, who had been unable to answer after all this time.

“You already let a girl say those things, and you’re still unable to say anything yourself? And you’re supposed to be a guy, how pathetic!”

As she was speaking, Amane smoothly tossed the foreboding looking jewelled sword to Maou.

“Wah.....wah, eh, this, this is.....”

“This isn’t the time to say these things, you herbivore!” Even though we only known each other for two days, but I still know what kind of person you are. Go quickly and show me your manliness! Let me see how you plan to take responsibility. Draw the blade! You should be.....”

In what can be described as under Amane's provocations, Maou reached for the sheath and drew the jewelled blade.

In that moment, the tip of Inbuo let out a light which was brighter than the light from the lighthouse, an unwavering black pillar stretching to the horizon.

“the Demon King from a faraway world!”

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrom.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrromm.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrrommm.....

A roar which signified the power of the black light cut across the surface of Choshi's sea.

“Chiho-dono, is your body alright?”

“Ah, yes.....I'm not sure why, but I seem to be alright this time.....”

Chiho and Suzuno walked towards an empty Cape Inubo from the hall of the hotel, looking around while surrounded by a thick fog which was so dense that they could not see own hands.

“.....These are definitely traces of demonic magic.....but, why.....”

“That’s obvious, even if there is no one outside right now, but if so much demonic magic is released at once, it’s likely that the residents of Cape Inubo would all faint. I only put some protective measures in place.”

An answer was heard from the mist.

“!”

Suzuno took a defensive stance, carefully putting Chiho behind her.

“There’s no need to be so wary, we were comrades who ate the same fried noodles after all.”

Ooguro Amane, wearing a T-shirt, appeared with the same dressed down attire.

“At the very least, I am not your enemy. Don’t worry, it’s only because they said that they would take responsibility, so I decided to observe the situation, if there are any who got away and cause havoc, I will still raise a hand to help.”

Facing this situation, how can anyone not worry?

According to Emi, a large force consisting of the remnants of the Demon King Army is approaching Choshi.

Suzuno did not completely believe that Amane was not a regular person, at the same time, she did not think that she had the ability to handle the enemies which Emi had missed.

“Don’t look down on people, I’ll be very troubled, human.”

Perhaps she sensed Suzuno’s perplexed feelings, Amane gave a fearless smile, her hand at her waist.

“!”

“Wah?”

Suzuno and Chiho couldn’t help but cover their faces.

A typhoon like fog surrounded Amane.

A T-shirt and apron, jeans and sandals, and hair tied up with a hair tie.

A person who looked like a shop manager who can easily be found throughout Japan, who had now assumed the identity of the master of fog, had descended on the beach of Inubo. The power Amane showed was not

demonic magic, and not holy magic, but an overwhelming power of unknown origin.

“The name Ooguro isn’t just for show. Even if I have to throw all the “existences who do not belong here” to the other side of the light in an instant, it won’t be a problem for me, you know?”

As if a stage actor was currently saying cool sounding lines, the light from the lighthouse stopped on Ooguro’s back.

The strong beam from the first order light equipment caused Suzuno and Chiho to close their eyes.

But in an instant, it was really just an instant, the two people felt that they saw a light different from the white light from the lighthouse.

“Sigh, the both of you can wait here first. For some things.....”

That illusion disappeared, and once Chiho and Suzuno regained their sight, there was only a kind female shop manager in front of them.

“once Maou-kun and the others return, I might tell all of you about it.”

“Amane-san.....”

“Now, I have to carry out some tasks which Maou-kun and Bird-kun asked me to do, see you later.”

After saying this, Amane waved and disappeared into the fog.

The direction which Amane left in was towards the Inubosaki Lighthouse.

Following the roar of a giant dragon, Chiho and Suzuno saw that she was focused on the sea within the fog with a sharp gaze.

※

“Mama, the bowl direction!”

From Alas=Ramus's mental communications, even if she did not see it herself, Emi was able to use her shield from the evil repelling armour to block the attacks coming from the left.

“Chopsticks direction!”

Very obviously, the demons let loose a continuous attack of countless claws from the right side, naturally Emi was able to deflect all the attacks with the blade of the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’.

The individual fighting ability of the Malebranche clan wasn't high.

But with the clan leader, Malacoda's necromancy as the base, they were very good with underhanded moves.

“!”

Emi faced the demon attacking her, but it split the moment it reached her.

Even though it was only a feint using a simple illusion spell, but for Emi, in a battle of one against one thousand, being greatly outnumbered, she did not have the leisure to determine which one was real or fake.

Just as Emi was prepared to use her shield to block the other party's charge----

“Chopsticks side!”

Alas=Ramus gave a warning.

But for Emi, who did not sense the approach of the demonic magic bullet, she had already missed the chance to dodge.

“Heaven Light Flash!”

Emi instantly decided to execute a counter attack.

“Ug, argh!”

But as she was unable to focus on the coming attack and the counter attack technique at the same time, Emi was attacked by both parties at the same time.

Ten Malenbranches attacked the unsteady Emi at the same time.

“Hey, what are all of you doing! Let me go! Hey.....stop! Don’t go touching strange places!”

If she was held down in the air, she would be unable to avoid the demonic magic bullet. With no other alternative, Emi gritted her teeth----

“Exploding light shockwave!”

She shouted in her mind and activated a spell. It was a strong wind caused by the holy magic exploding out from within her body, a forceful technique which would shake the Malebranches off her. However, not only does this skill use a lot of holy magic, but the claws of the demons which were gathered together scratched Emi’s forehead as they were blasted off.

A line of blood appeared on her forehead, and the worst thing is that the blood even flowed into Emi's right eye, obscuring her vision.

“Mama, are you alright?”

Emi didn't even have the time to answer Alas=Ramus.

This only made the battle situation more difficult.

“Seriously, it was already troublesome enough to begin with.”

After all, Emi was using a battle style she had not tried before to face this large number of enemies.

“Bowl direction!”

In order to parry the technique used by the Malebranche from the left side----

“Vaccum thrust!”

It was not a spell, and not the holy sword, but a martial arts skill.

Emi concentrated the holy magic around her hand and swung with a backhand, breaking the Malebranche's sharp claw in one blow, causing the other party to scream and back off.

“I’m going to borrow your skills, Alberto!”

Swinging out her left hand with a backhand once again, Emi gave continuous punches to those approaching her from the front.

“Vaccum bullets!”

The shockwave caused by Emi’s punches became bullets and flew towards the Malebranches.

The demons who were hit in the stomach or head, shakily left the battlefield like they have lost consciousness.

As for the Malebranches who avoided the bullet rain and counter attacked with their own demonic bullets, they were destroyed with Emi’s holy sword.

“Hah!”

Emi kicked the chin of the demon rushing towards her, using the chance to close the distance between them, executing vaccum thrust with her left hand to push the other party out of attacking range.

“.....This, this is really, harder than.....I imagined.”

In the past, Alberto taught the basics of martial arts to Emi, who only knew how to use weapons to fight.

Before being conquered by the northern invasion commander of the Demon King Army, Adramelech, there was once a elite group in the Northern Continent of Ente Isla well versed in various kinds of martial arts techniques and spells ---- “Immortal Mountain Legion”.

It was only after the disintegration of the group did Emi meet Alberto deep in the mountains, who had been carrying out the duties of a woodcutter while polishing his skills at the same time, and Alberto, who had been a elite warrior of the Immortal Mountain Legion and a priest of the immortal arts at the same time, was proficient in various fighting skills, including sword fighting skills.

“As the Northern Continent used to be a fragmented multi-cultural country, in order to avoid sowing too much discord during fights, a long time ago, it was decided to use this fixed method of fighting.”

Emi had always thought that this non-lethal fighting style, was suited for battles between humans.

“Back off!”

At this time, in the large troop of Malebranches, a murky voice was heard.

And resembling an illusion, the originally obstinate battle stances of the demons stopped at that instant.

“Human woman.....it looks like you’re not an ordinary person.”

It was a demon who looked especially huge compared to the rest of the Malenbranches.

It looks like he is the leader who is commanding this group of demons. Even though the other party is a demon, he used an eyepatch to cover one eye, and had long teeth which were more attention grabbing than his large size.

“Thank you for your compliments. But I’m sorry, I do not wish to use my holy magic because of mental communication, so please use human language.”

“Within the 1200 elite members of the Malebranches.....there have not been any casualties so far.....this is very abnormal. Can you be.....”

As he said this the leader of the Malebranches suddenly raised his right hand.

In his hands, he held something which looked like a cheap crystal necklace.

That crystal suddenly gave off a faint purple glow, shooting a beam in Emi's direction.

“Purple light.....this is!”

“Mama! Yesod! Behind that shiny thing, Yesod!”

The voice of Alas=Ramus after their merging, confirmed Emi's suspicions. At this instant, the leader of the Malebranches let out an evil laugh, as if to emphasise 'This is what a demon is'.

“Wahahahaha! I’ve never expected that we would find it so soon. You’re the holder of the holy sword, Hero Emilia, isn’t that right?”

Instantly, the eyes of the leader of the Malebranches started burning with vigour, starting to call on the demonic magic in his body.

“Since my opponent possesses a power which transcends that of the Four Kings and Satan-sama, then I must use my full power! Then I will win, and obtain that holy sword!”

“.....Looks like I can’t hide it anymore.”

Emi showed an equally fearless smile, and raised the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ up high.

“Emerge! My strength, for the elimination of demons!”

Just this shout was enough to sent the Malebranches flying.

The demons were unable to look directly at the golden glow which Emi was emitting from her body, and backed up like they were overwhelmed by her presence.

“If you do not wish to get hurt, then take your troop and retreat.”

Silver hair, red eyes, solidified evil repelling armour, it wasn’t just limited to the complete healing for all her wounds----

“This is the first time that I evolved to the second stage of the blade of the holy sword since I came to Japan.....the power it has it nothing to scoff at.”

The ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ in Emi’s hand had evolved as well.

The holy sword was originally a thin one handed blade, but right now, not only had the blade become wider, with a longer sword hilt, even the sword decoration on the hilt and the purple jewel----the fragment of ‘Yesod’, were glowing brightly.

“You are really the person behind the destruction of the Demon King Army, Hero Emilia!”

The leader of the Malebranches looked fearless, confronting Emi in an awe-inspiriing manner.

“My name is Ciriatto! One of the chieftains of the Malebranches! In behest of Malacoda, who passed away, and the future of the new Demon King Army, I will obtain your holy sword! Stay back, all of you!”

In response to the warrior Ciriatto, who controlled his subordinates and announced his name, Emilia placed the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ in front of her eyes, giving a knight’s salute.

“I’ve found out a lot of new things about demons recently.....I won’t hold back!”

An instant of attack and defense occurred between demon magic and holy magic over the Pacific Ocean. The ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ sliced across the black sharp claw on Ciriatto’s buff right arm.

“Ugh!”

Ciriatto’s right claw was cut into two with close to no resistance, and fell into the Pacific Ocean.

“Do you still wish to fight?”

“**Argh.....**”

Just one short crossing of moves was enough for Ciriatto to let out a groan of regret.

His eyes were unable to follow the flash of Emilia’s sword at all.

If an Archangel was unable to do such a thing, then a mere chieftain of the Malebranches would definitely not be able to do so, but as a warrior, even when faced with a despairing difference in ability, Ciriatto did not plan to back down.

Because, no matter what, he must give the ‘holy sword’ to the new Demon King Army, unify the Demon World after the death of Demon King Satan and invade Ente Isla.

“.....Looks like you do not plan to retreat.”

“I am the Malebranche Chieftain Ciriatto! If I run away from the enemy because I am afraid of losing, how can I be a good role model for the new Demon King Army! Wooah!”

“Wah! Wait!”

Even though he was an enemy but Emilia couldn’t help but say something to stop him.

Ciriatto intentionally used his unharmed claw to cut off the entire broken one.

“I do not need a weapon which is broken and will only get in the way! It will grow again anyway!”

“Ah, is that so?”

Even if it was just an instant, Emilia still felt some regret for admiring the enemy.

“Even so, it should still hurt a lot. It even looks like it’s bleeding, even if you’re missing one weapon you’re good at, you still wish to fight?”

“I will fight until my body turns to dust!”

A traditional warrior personality.

Emilia did not think that it was a warrior’s ambition to die on the battlefield. But since Ciriatto thought so, then Emilia will use the same battle technique as before to end the battle in a way which the enemy hated the most.

“I will not obediently follow your wishes and kill you, you know.”

Emilia raised the holy sword.

“Eh? Mama, is this alright?”

Realising Emilia’s situation, Alas=Ramus asked this.

Emilia intentionally decreased the holy magic of the holy sword. The holy sword, which seldomly evolved into the second stage, changed back into the first stage. Not only that, the blade itself had weakened until it was barely able to maintain its form, with some degree of sharpness.

“It would be better to handle if our conditions were more equal. This is to.....”

Emilia closed her eyes briefly, and recalled the appearances of the demons.

“avoid taking your life!”

“Interesting!”

Ciriatto also decreased the demon magic in his left claw to the minimum levels. He matched his intention not to rely on any spells, and defeat Emilia with pure battle technique.

The Hero of the holy sword confronted the Malebranche Chieftain Ciriatto, adding tension to the atmosphere above the sea.

Emilia's only worry is whether she would be able to defeat Ciriatto without taking his life, and it was also difficult to guarantee that the other Malebranches will listen obediently.

If the chieftain was defeated, perhaps the troop will lose control as well.

If so, for Emilia who had overwhelming strength, it would become a one-sided massacre.

“.....looks like I have become soft.”

Emilia took a deep breathe to adjust her feelings, the enemy is the chieftain of the Malebranches, equally matched with Malacoda, he was not someone she could underestimate. She will handle whatever happens later after that.

If this battle occurred in Ente Isla, it would probably be fierce enough to destroy a town, even though there was no signal fire to announce the start of the battle, the two who confronted each other with bated breaths suddenly raised their heads.

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrom.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrromm.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrommm.....

The piercing roar of an ancient dragon controlled the whole space.

If it was just that, Emilia and Ciriato might still began their fierce battle immediately.

But the giant dragon's roar awoken the controller of the white fog on the sea, and suddenly, the area around Emilia and Ciriato had become a pure white world.

“?”

A certain black huge existence was currently approaching them from an area deep within the white world.

Just the presence excluded by that thing was enough to open a path within the dense fog, like a carpet on the path of Kings.

“Ciriatto, I have some impression of that name. You’re Malacoda’s subordinate, one of the chieftains of the Malebranches, am I right?”

A giant shadow appeared behind Emilia.

“But what is going on? I’ve never heard of this new Demon King Army, who was the person who rebuilt the Demon King Army by calling himself the ‘Demon King’ while ignoring my existence?”

“Who, who in the world.....!”

However, before he could even ask about the identity of the giant shadow behind Emilia, Ciriatto was grabbed by the neck by a hand he couldn’t see.

“A mere chieftain of Malebranche, actually being so insolent.....if you’re not careful, I’ll crush your throat.”

A new black shadow appeared next to the giant shadow, extending a hand towards Ciriatto.

The tail of the shadow was split into two at the end, and a man, without any colour on his face, gave an ear piercing shout.

In the sky, the group of Malebranche soldiers started to back up because of the two huge powers, but then----

“Even though it was your side who caused trouble first, you plan to run without even apologising, naïve, too naïve!”

Another voice was heard at the scene. The demons near the ‘gate’ turned around to find the source of the young sounding, cold and sharp voice.

The other party had the appearance of a small sized human.

But on the young man’s back, there were wings even darker than the night sky, blocking the path of the Malebranche.

“Seriously.....come earlier if you planned to come. You made me think of so many things for nothing.”

The ominous black energy replied, giving the impression that he did not consider the light energy to be important.

“Haha, I’m sorry, I seldomly regain my original form, so I’m a little unused to it.”

The huge shadow behind Emilia slowly approached her side.

“W, who.....ugh.....are you people.....”

Ciriatto groaned and asked this with some difficulty, and as if to answer him, a calm loud voice was heard from within the fog.

“Silence! Warriors of Malebranche! Do you not recognise the one standing before you?”

“Pu!”

Emilia almost laughed out loud because of this introduction like speech.

But for Ciriatto, who was struggling in pain, he tensed up when he heard this voice.

A black demon bird warrior descended slowly from the fake sky caused by the fog, stopping in front of the frozen Ciriatto.

“Ah, Mi, Minister.....Camio-sama.....”

Ciriatto was extremely surprised when he saw Camio.

“You actually listened to the deceitful honey coated words of a human, and planned to cause harm to your own Master!”

“Mas, Master.....”

Even though his eyes were filled with agony, Ciriatto still looked towards the giant shadow Camio had indicated with much difficulty.

A burly large sized man wearing the outer coat of the demon bird warrior, holding a jewelled sword which gave off a black glow, that person had one cracked horn, beast like legs and eyes which struck fear in the hearts of all living creatures.

“Ah.....this can’t be.....you are.....?”

“Warriors of Malebranche! The one in front of you is the Demon King Satan-sama! Show some respect!”

The man with an ear piercing voice gave a command with a tone full of intonation, in an introductory manner, causing Emilia to laugh again.

“Hey! Are you guys doing this on purpose?”

“Sa, Satan-sama?”

“It’s actually Satan-sama?”

Waves of uncertainty swept over the 1200 elite members of the Malebranches, everyone was mumbling the words, “Satan-sama, it’s Satan-sama” over and over again.

“The reaction on this side as well.....seriously, forget it.”

“That’s right.....that horn is really.....”

“Isn’t that the eastern invasion commander of the invastion army.....
Great General Alsiel-sama?”

“W, why is the Minister here.....and Satan-sama, isn’t he already dead?”

Just as the Malebranches were feeling shaken.

“Hey, actually ignoring me. Eh, no one took notice of me? Hey!”

Lucifer, who cut off the enemies’ retreat route, threw a temper, casuing the Malebranches at the back of group to turn around hastily, only seeing him a while later.

“It’s Fallen General-sama.....”

“Fallen General Lucifer-sama?”

“I really dislike the name ‘Fallen General’. Then again, all you subordinates of Malacoda, have all of you been calling me that in private!”

Cowed by Lucifer’s anger, a few Malebranches fled to within their troop.

“Alsiel, let him go.”

Satan said generously, and Alsiel also loosened the hand holding Ciriatto without any hesitation.

Ciriatto’s throat was freed, and he took deep breaths once again.

As the situation in front of him occurred too suddenly, Ciriatto could only survey his surroundings slowly.

He glanced at the Hero of the holy sword, Emilia, Demon Minister Camio, Great General Alsiel and Great General Lucifer.

Then----

“Demon King Satan-sama, please forgive our insolence!”

As if on cue, all the Malebranches present kneeled down in the air at the same time.

“Malebranche Chieftian, Ciriatto.”

The giant shadow in the fog said in a heavy tone.

“**Ye, yes!**”

“I do not remember authorising anyone else other than Camio to lead the citizens of the Demon World, what have you been doing while I was not around?”

“**That, that is.....!**”

Satan asked the kneeling Ciriatto in an unexpectedly warm tone.

“Raise your head, I will hear your reasons.”

“**Reporting to Demon King-sama.....us Malebranche Clan with Barbariccia as the leader, did not fall for the human's honey coated words! This is all for the peace of the Demon World, to prevent the holy sword from falling into the hands of those who threaten the Demon World.....”**

“Peace of the Demon World?”

Ciriatto glanced at Emilia, who was holding the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ from the corner of his eye.

“Barbariccia-sama only pretended to believe the honey coated words of the human, and intended to lead me and the other citizens of the Demon World to obtain the holy sword.....”

“Imbecile!”

“The human who tricked you, is only one human, Olba Meyers, the companion of the Hero. If you gathered the powers of all the chieftains in Malebranche, you can always kill him after obtaining the information, it’s easy even if you want to buy time. Why didn’t you do this, and why didn’t you seek interdiction from Camio!”

“That, that is because.....”

“Well said, Alsiel.”

The one who spoke for Alsiel wasn’t just anyone, but the one who berated Ciriatto first, the Demon King.

“These guys can’t be that stupid, Barbariccia probably really decided to do such a thing from the start. However, Olba isn’t someone who can be dealt with easily, and he wasn’t working alone, was he?”

“You are correct, I am ashamed to face you.”

Satan faced the depressed looking Ciriatto.

“Ciriatto.”

“Yes.....”

Emilia interrupted and asked.

“Can I see that purple jewel which you brought?”

“Purple jewel? Are you referring to this?”

The expressions of Maou and the rest changed subtly because of the word purple jewel.

The necklace Ciriatto held was decorated with a non-purple transparent jewel.

However, the result deviated from Emilia's original prediction, that thing was not a fragment of 'Yesod', and was just a normal jewel. However Emilia still had some impression of that glow.

“Communication crystal.....”

It was a tool which could transmit and receive via mental communication regardless of the distance between them. In short, it is like Ente Isla's mobile phone.

“That purple light just now.....was it transmitted from the other end of this communication crystal?”

Emilia had seen a similar light once before.

In order to fight the Demon King in front of her in the past, while leading her comrades to attack the Demon Fortress on Isla Kentourm, the holy sword started to react to the seed of Alas=Ramus near the Demon King's throne for unexplainable reasons, emitting a “guiding light”.

Even though Emilia and the others thought that the holy sword was guiding them towards the throne room where the Demon King was, but that light was actually the result of the connection between the fragments of “Yesod”.

“We only know that the light will guide us to the location of the holy sword.....even if this jewel is linked to some other place, we are not sure where it leads to.”

“.....Even if you swear on my name, you are willing to guarantee that whatever you said just now was the truth?”

In response to Satan’s confirmation, even though Ciriatto showed a confused expression, he still replied without any hesitation,

“I’m willing to swear on Demon King Satan-sama’s name, these words were not lies!”

Ciriatto lowered his head with a dejected expression, but Satan, who looked downwards at him, had an unexpectedly tender expression on his face.

“Very good.....then again, where does the ‘gate’ which you have come through connect to? Is transport possible in both directions?”

“The.....‘gate’?”

“Oh my, we are hoping that all of you are able to return obediently, but if you guys are punished because you returned empty handed without completing your mission, it will leave a bad taste in my mouth.”

“Yes, uh, that.....”

Ciriatto stared in shock at Satan, who suddenly changed his tone.

“Don’t worry, the Demon King has no plans to condemn all of you. Sigh, as for those who were injured for attacking the Hero over there, just think of it as paying an expensive lesson fee and concentrate on recovering.”

As if he had given up, Ciriatto nodded at Lucifer, who showed an unkind smile.

“If you still wish to return to the Demon World, or you plan to return, then I will not stop you. Camio, even after these war advocates return, please do not harm them. As for what happens after, I will leave them to you.”

“Understood.”

Camio kneeled down to signify that he had accepted the order.

“Now then, Ciriatto. All of you should return to the place you belong to next. Even though you might be flying a little quickly, but just tolerate it for now. Camio will follow all of you later.”

“A little quickly.....?”

“When all of you return to the Demon World, tell everyone this. Tell them that I, Demon King Satan, am still alive.”

“Hey, what are you saying.....ah!”

Emilia, who thought that the other party was trying to make use to Ciriatto to raise the morale of the Demon World, voiced her protests, but let out a sharp scream when Satan suddenly put an arm around her shoulder.

Satan’s muscled arm, who hugged Emilia through her evil repelling armour, caused her to freeze subconsciously as goosebumps formed on her skin.

Ignoring Emilia’s reaction, Satan spoke with a loud volume resembling a tsunami, giving his orders.

“And that one of the holy swords is already in my hands. Tell everyone that in order to bring peace to the Demon World once again, Satan is recuperating in a foreign world, use this reason to placate the uncertainty felt amongst the citizens of the Demon World. Ciriatto, I order you to assist Camio, unify the Demon World and lead everyone before I return!”

The orders of the Demon King Satan, who lead the Demon World and all demons, reverberated through the Pacific Ocean which had been covered in fog.

In this instant, not just Ciriatto, all the Malebranches, Alsiel, Camio and Lucifer, kneeled down to show their respect for Satan.

Satan surveyed everyone, nodding with satisfaction as he said,

“Very good, now, everyone who wants to return, please step this way.”

“Eh? What?”

A stunned atmosphere descended with the fog.

Ciriatto, who was kneeling in front of Satan, realized that he was currently being surrounded by a cocoon like fog, and after he was illuminated by a light of unknown source, he disappeared after letting out a strange noise.

The wavering Malebranches started to make a commotion.

“Alright, because the back is blocked, so can everyone quickly form a line, don’t worry, I heard that it doesn’t hurt.”

Lucifer, who already grasped the technique of ordering the troops from the shaved ice, suppressed the disorder in the crowd while arranging the Malebranches into two straight lines, and a beam of light, as if seeing the opportunity, shone across them again.

Surrounded by the cocoon like fog and swallowed by the light, the demons disappeared one after another after letting out a strange noise like Ciriatto.

“Everyone let out a strange shout.....it can’t be that they will hit the ground at light speed once they reach the other side.”

After all the Malebranches were gotten rid of, Satan’s worried words disappeared into thin air.

“Ciriatto is still one of the chieftains of the Malebranches, he wouldn’t die from that kind of standard.”

“Oh my, even if it was me, I’m not really confident about light speed.”

“Forget about those rude people.....right now, we should be sealing that huge ‘gate’.....”

The demon form of Alsiel, who, as usual, only said what was necessary, took the lead and flew towards the huge ‘gate’ which the Malebranches appeared from.



Camio followed closely, and Lucifer followed in a flustered manner, and then----

“How long do you want to hold me for, I’ll kill you!”

Emilia’s holy magic exploded with her anger, and she followed behind Lucifer, burning with anger.

As for the red nosed, tearing Satan, he chased after the others in an unsteady manner.

“.....Who in the world, opened such a large ‘gate’.....”

After approaching it, one again, Emilia shuddered at the large scale of the ‘gate’.

She had never heard of any ‘gate’ which was able to allow a huge Malebranche army--- chieftain ranked Ciriatto and more than 1000 Malebranche troops to pass through, while allowing them to maintain their original forms after.

Since it was a gate that allows the Malebranches to ‘exit’, then they should be unable to go back from this side, but if this gate was able to operate in both directions, its capacity should be large enough to allow a fully powered Satan and Emilia to pass through.

An abnormal amount of demon magic was being emitted from the crack in the ‘gate’, it looks like this was the reason was the Malebranches were able to maintain their demon forms.

“It looks like their demon magic came from this ‘gate’..... Barbariccia might be a Malebranche chieftain, but no matter what, he is still Malacoda’s subordinate, does he have the ability to open such a large ‘gate’?”

“It might not be just Barbariccia alone. Isn’t Olba with him? That guy seems to be proficient in the usage of ‘gate’ spells, they might have worked together to open it.....”

“What kind of stupid things are you saying, Lucifer? Look at this irregular shape, and the fact that it is still open after the Malebranches passed through it. Do you think a mere human and demon, would be able to do such a thing?”

“Ugh, like I was saying, why do you drop the honorifics only when you’re talking to me.....”

“But if it’s the Demon King in his heyday, he should be able to reach this standard right? Since he was able to make a ‘gate’ to throw Archangel Sariel in.....”

Emilia interrupted the conversation between the three demons like it was a natural thing to do.

“But Satan himself is standing here.”

“Ah, you’re right.”

As the scene of demons and the Hero gathering and discussing together is really too strange, Satan gave a small smile at this.

“.....what’s so strange. Don’t look at me with that disgusting expression, I’ll really cut you if you do.”

“Ah, sorry sorry, I didn’t mean it that way.”

Satan waved her hands to stop her in a manner which was not much different from how humans would have done it.

“Do you guys really not know? There is still another method which can open any kind of gate easily.”

“.....?”

Alsiel, Lucifer and Emilia showed confused expressions at the same time, causing Satan to laugh again.

“Hey Camio.”

“Yes.”

Satan asked Camio, who was standing next to him.

“I wonder how we became how we are right now from before.”

“You are right. This means that, even the Hero is no exception.”

“.....Even though I don’t know what both of you are talking about, but I really feel like cutting the both of you right now.”

“Emilia, now isn’t the time to say these things. Come and help to close up that crack too.”

Alsiel advised Emilia in a monotonous voice, gesturing towards the dimensional crack.

“.....Seriously, you guys owe me a lot this time.....”

Emila stood next to Alsiel, aiming ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ at the crack.

“I wouldn’t know about that, please write ‘To Satan’ in the heading.”

“Because you’re always acting like that, that’s why I don’t use honorifics when addressing you.”

Camio stretched an arm towards the crack while giving a warning to Lucifer.

“All of you are with me through thick and thin. If it’s just me, who knows how she will make things difficult for me.”

After saying this, Satan put a hand on the jewelled sword at his waist.

The jewelled sword which took up most of Camio’s waist looked like a small knife when held by Satan, whose build was much larger than that of a human.

However----

“Ah.....this feeling is so nostalgic.”

The blade of the jewelled sword started to glow a much brighter deep red colour, this showed that the jewelled sword was resonating with Satan’s demonic magic.

“So I was this strong before.”

Satan looked at the reflection of his eyes on the blade, and mumbled to himself in a low volume which could not be heard by others.

“.....I’m going to cut off the power maintaining the gate from the space, after that, please drive the leaked demonic magic back to mend the scar in the space.”

As she listened to the chatter from the demons, Emilia focused her attention on the dimensional crack.

“Cut off the power maintaining the ‘gate’, you can do that sort of thing?”

Emilia only answered Satan’s question with a look.

From the flashing ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’ in her hands, it was as if an illusion of an energetic young girl puffing her chest out could be seen.

“She said she can do it.”

“I see, what a scary child.”

Emilia left a wryly smiling Satan behind and flew forward by herself.

Like a comet, she flew towards the black humming ‘gate’, which gave off an ominous air, in a straight line, and executed two lightning like strikes.

The instant the strikes reached, the intersection between the ‘gate’ and normal space started to waver vigorously.

“Now!”

“Good, seal!”

Coordinating with Emilia’s signal, the four demons released their demonic magic towards the ‘gate’.

The intersection point shook continuously, and the crack which started to stabilise was rapidly compressing.

If the moan of the foghorn can be described as the roar from a giant dragon, then the loud sound emitted by the compressed gate, was like a dying throes of a chimera from the legends after it was defeated by the gods, it was a sound which struck fear even when heard by the king of demons, a sound which did not belong to this world.

The thick fog started to attack the compressed gate.

And it let out a roar of a giant dragon like it was giving the demons a boost.

And then----

※

“The sea.....calmed down.”

Suzuno and Chiho, at the empty Inubo, heard the roar of a giant dragon.

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrrrom.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrromm.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrrommm.....

A roar which sounded like a lone savour from the legends searching for its long lost extinct comrades echoed across the beach of Inubo.

“Suzuno-san, look, the fog!”

Like it was dispelled by the sound of the foghorn, the fog over the sea disappeared as suddenly as it came.

“Has it ended?”

“It seems like it has ended.”

Amane’s voice and form appeared again from the other side of the slowly dissipating fog.

Amane, who still had the appearance of a cordial shop manager, spoke. The imposingness which she had when she appeared within the fog earlier could not be felt at all.

“Those scary guys and Bird-san, have returned to ‘the world which they belong to’. And that huge ‘cave’, seems to be plugged by Maou-kun and the others. However.....”

Amane turned towards the sea once again, scratching her face in a troubled manner,

“Maybe they spent too much time, and used up all the power. Even though it can’t be seen that clearly from this distance, but the three of them probably fell into the sea. The waves are huge, I wonder if they can swim.”

Suzuno and Chiho turned to look at the wryly smiling Amane, then at each other.

“Eh?”

Even though the incident was solved in the middle of the night, even when the huge sun started to peek out from the horizon, covering the light of the stars, Emi, Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara still have not returned.

With an expression like she was about to cry, Chiho searched for signs of the four people amongst the black sea with all her might, and Suzuno could only pray that Emi's holy magic reaction did not disappear.

Even after day broke, Inubosaki Lighthouse continued to emit the glorious light which it was proud of onto the sea.

The cliffs below the lighthouse did seem to have any paths and led directly to the sea.

Just as the sun was about to rise above the horizon, on the shore below the cliffs of the cape----

“Yusa-san! Maou-san!”

“Alsiel! Lucifer! Are all of you still alive?”

Hero Emilia, with silver white hair, Maou Sadao, Ashiya Shiro and Lucifer, the four of them drifted to shore, soaking wet.

“Huff.....huff, Chi, Chi-chan, Bell.....uh, that, the incident, has ended, mostly.....”

Emilia gasped for breath, breathing in large gulps, deactivating her transformation before the two could look towards her, returning to the usual hair colour of Yusa Emi.

“Chi-nee chan, Suzu-nee chan!”

At this time, another small human form appeared.

“Alas=Ramus-chan!”

“Listen, listen, Mama, Papa, Birdie, Alsiel and Lucifer, everyone! Erhm.....”

Alas=Ramus was talking with all her might in an excited manner.

“They got rid of all these things that look like this with a ‘Don’, and even ‘shu’ed a really big ‘bang’!”

“.....”

“.....”

They did not understand what she was trying to express at all.

“After that, after being wrapped and taken care of a little, the little birdie went back!”

“The little birdie went back.....Camio-san returned to the Demon World?”

Chiho asked Maou, but strangely, Maou didn’t even have the energy to speak, taking short breaths over and over again in an exhausted manner.

“After that sword.....returned to the Demon World with Camio, the fog dissipated.”

After adjusting her breathing, Emi got up slowly.

“Then these guys suddenly changed back into humans, and they were about 200 feet above the sea!”

“Eh?”

“Seriously, they let out a pleasant scream that I was tempted to record down and fell into the sea. Even though I don’t know how they changed form, but even if they change back to humans, they should preserve some demonic magic so they can fly back.”

For Emi, she shouldn’t have much excess left. Even if she still maintained her half angel form, to swim in the billowing large waves of Choshi while dragging three guys along was obviously not an easy thing to do.”

“.....You owe me big time. Seriously.....you bunch of demons who lack any planning.”

“Mama is very wet, are you alright? Will you get a cold?”

“I’m alright. How about Alas=Ramus?”

“I’m fine!”

Even though this is actually the first battle experienced after the merging of the holy sword and Alas=Ramus, like what she said, Alas=Ramus did not suffer any unusual side effects.

“You worked hard today. I’ll give you a reward later.”

“Un!”

“Alright, alright, good job everyone.”

Amane, who walked down from the path, looked at everyone with squinted eyes after clapping her hands, even if Maou and the others already knew she was not an ordinary human, they still did not know if she was friend or foe.

Emi and Suzuno couldn't help but assume a guarded stance.

“Ah, hey hey, why do you look like you want to fight. I don't plan to do anything. I will properly explain to all of you later, even if it is summer, with the four of you like this, you would still.....”

Emi looked up to glare at Amane, but in the end, she couldn't hold it in----

“Achoo!”

She sneezed hard.

“.....catch a cold.”

Amane pointed to the cape when she finished speaking.

“Anyway, let's return to Ooguro-ya first. I already prepared hot water for you to bathe with. Come on, take a look.”

Amane raised a hand to the front of her forehead, looking at the surface of the sea.

“Isn't this a beautiful morning which matches well with the end of a battle?”

At this time, the sun happened to rise above the horizon, and the light from the Inubosaki Lighthouse turned off at the same time. The source of light at the top of the lighthouse, the room known as the light room slowly lowered the light blocking screens, covering up the first order Fresnel lens which watched over the safety of the ocean.

The highest grade sunrise in Japan which Choshi was proud of, extended its rays towards the Hero, demons and humans who ended their battle.

※

The sun totally left the horizon and the atmosphere in Kimigahama seemed to hint that it would be a hot day today.

Even though they just experience a huge mess yesterday, the only beach house in Kimigahama, Ooguro-ya, was busy with preparations to open the store.

According to Amane----

“No matter what troubles you are facing, as a Japanese, as long as the shop and customers are around, the shop has to open.”

This seems to be the situation.

Of course, from the standpoint of Maou and the others, it's not as if they had nothing to say about that, but at that time, the employer used a hard tactic.

Even though a huge melee from a foreign dimension was experienced yesterday, and Maou's true identity was seen----□

“If you do not listen, then I won't hand out any salary.”

One sentence from Amane caused the three demons to keep quiet obediently.

Therefore, Maou started to wipe the tables, Urushihara started to fill the child sized pool with water and Ashiya started to prepare the ingredients while referring to the number of customers who came yesterday.

“When I first appeared, Chiho-chan and Kamazuki-chan were really afraid of me. What kind of person did you imagine me to be, and what did you say to them?”

“Oh my, because we really don't know anything about you.....”

Maou tried to justify himself with an excuse.

After Emi, Maou and the others flew to the sky, Suzuno and Chiho had been waiting for them in the hotel.

Even with the knowledge that the Malenbranche army was approaching, for allowing Chiho to stay at Kimigahama despite that, Maou had lectured Emi on this point from the start.

“If Amane-san’s power is real, I was thinking even if something unexpected happened, there shouldn’t be any danger.”

But Emi used this reason to justify her actions.

“Hey hey, besides Chiho-chan, there should be another girl around. Regarding this, don’t all of you have any thoughts about it?”

“I’m, I’m alright! They are just mere Malebranches, even if I have to protect Chiho-dono at the same time, I can still fight!”

Suzuno, who stayed in the shop for unknown reasons while feeling awkward, immediately replied loudly in a flustered manner when she heard Amane shift the topic to her.

“Oh my, Suzuno was strong to begin with, I’m very thankful that she could help to protect Chi-chan.....”

“~~!”

“Demon King-sama, how can you say it like this! Ignoring the actual circumstances, it sounds as if she was the only one who was left out and didn’t know about Camio-sama, so at this time, you have to be concerned about her argh!”

Ashiya, who frantically decided to give advice, fainted due to an attack to the back of his head because whatever he said could be heard clearly by other people. It looks like he was attacked by a soysauce bottle this time.

“Who was left out! I don’t care about insignificant things like this at all! Basically, as long as I take action, if doesn’t matter if it was an army of 1000, or 2000 demons, all of them will become coral debris at the bottom of the sea, Emilia is really too soft hearted!”

Even though Suzuno had an angry appearance, but she pouted like she still felt some loneliness and glared at Emi, who was also in the corner of the store.

“Emilia, I heard that didn’t even kill one demon, how did that happen!”

“No special reason.”

Emi stayed in a shady area of the store, and she was the only one wearing a swimsuit.

As she fell into the sea, Emi’s clothes were undergoing emergency cleaning, so for Emi, who did not prepare a change of clothes, had no choice but to wear the swimsuit which was hung up last night tide over the situation.

“I just.....do not wish to kill the opponent in front of me out of hatred anymore. Of course, I can say with certainty that I will still take the life of my opponent if there is a necessity to do so.....but.....”

Emi glanced at Maou, who was wiping the tables.

“Even if I want to fight, I would have to wait until I return to that side, or else it would just be unfair. Of course, I am unable to use my full ability in Japan as well, but I feel that Ciriatto’s original ability should be stronger than that. It’s not difficult to kill, but I’m already tired of the battle methods which would only create hatred in my opponent.”

Emi raised both her hands, showing a pose of surrender.

“A strange battle like this cannot bring about the future at all. As long as we display overwhelming power in the end, we would be able to gain victory, this is why I chose not to kill them.”

“Sigh.....seeing girls talk about violence and killing in the morning, is Yamato Nadeshiko an illusion?”

(T/N: Yamato Nadeshiko describes the ideal Japanese woman. Refer to the link below for a comprehensive description, <http://tvtropes.org/pmwiki/pmwiki.php/Main/YamatoNadeshiko>)

Amane, who was preparing small change in front of the cashier, said this with a tone like she had lost hope with the world.

“Then.....that light is the light from the lighthouse, and the one who controlled the fog is Amane-san, right? What is that fog? What happened to the One Eyed Tattooed Demon and beast demon at the beginning.....did they die?”

Amane still used the same tone of voice to answer the questions which Urushihara asked as he drank the store's Oletimin C.

“As the child of the Tree of Life, one has to stay in the same place as the Tree of Life one was born from.”

“Ah?”

As the term ‘Tree of Life’ appeared in a place no one expected, everyone tensed up at that moment.

“They only returned to the place which they belong to, that light only helped to point a path for them. Sigh, even though the method is a bit forceful, but those guys staying would only cause trouble to others, and we cannot allow them to disrupt our business.”

Amane answered with regards to territory, and looked towards Maou.

“Maou-san, you should have met with Aunt Mi-chan, right?”

“Ye, yeah, of course.....”

“Have you heard about us from here before?”

“Us.....what is that supposed to mean, eh? You're not referring to being relatives or something?”

“Ah, then I can’t. If it’s like this, I can’t say anything more.”

Amane closed the drawer to the cashier and shook her head with a wry smile.

“What is going on? Are the both of you, really not normal humans?”

After preparing most of the vegetables, Ashiya asked this as he sharpened the vegetable knife on the whetstone, but Amane just shook her head in reply.

“That’s true. Sigh, perhaps I really cannot be considered human.....but I don’t have any issues during my annual checkup, my body is really healthy, you know.”

“Uh, that, I wasn’t asking about that.....”

“Does it matter, it’s fine as long as we’re alive.”

After saying this, Amane walked up to Emi.

“.....This?”

“She’s sleeping soundly.”

Amane looked at Emi's eyes, and placed her hand on Emi's forehead.

Since she is looking directly into Emi's eyes, she obviously knew that Emi is still awake.

Perhaps Amane knew that Alas=Ramus was within Emi's body.

“Please treasure this child, don't make her sad. She might be a very very distant relative of mine.”

“Eh?”

Before Emi could decipher the meaning behind that sentence, Amane had already withdrew her head and had turned around to leave.

“So, the morning preparations should just almost done, right?”

Amane shouted towards Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara.

“Ah, it feels like I came at the right time?”

Chiho appeared from the back of the store, holding Emi's clothes.

“It looks like it will be very hot today. Even though it was only hung up for a while, it's already dry. Here, Yusa-san.”

“Th, thank you, Chiho.”

Emi, with her gaze still on Amane, accepted the clothes from Chiho.

“Yeah, so everyone.....”

Amane clapped her hands loudly, attracting everyone's attention----

“Even though it has been a short time, but I'm thankful for everyone's help during this time. However, I cannot continue to employ all of you.”

And said these astonishing words.

“““.....Eh?”””

Maou, Ashiya and Urushihara replied, stunned.

“Don't worry everyone, I will think of a way to cope with things later on. Ah, Maou-kun and Kamazuki-chan, Aunt Mi-chan seemed to have rushed the work, so the apartment renovations have been completed.”

“I, I don't really understand what you are saying.”

Maou understood what Amane said after some difficulty, and his face turned white under the morning sun.

“Didn’t I tell you about the Snarling Spirits before?”

“Snarling Spirits?”

Thinking about it, the night when everyone was playing with fireworks, Amane did mention that topic.

Snarling Spirits----ship spirits circulating around Choshi.

“Even though the details are a little different, but all those are true stories.”

“Eh?”

“Oh my, because it’s Aunt Mi-chan’s recommendation, I already knew you have some special secrets from the start, but you people are too strong of a stimulus for the customers. Especially Maou-kun and Ashiya-kun, the both of you could have upset the energy balance of this beach.”

“.....Er, erhm, Amane-san, I’m sorry for interrupting you. Erhm.....”

Chiho, who had turned as pale as Maou for unknown reasons, interrupted when Amane was explaining and pointed at the corner opposite Emi with a shaking finger.

“Over there.....is there a child like shadow sitting there?”

“.....Oh no!”

Amongst them, only Amane lifted her head and groaned when she saw it.

For the remaining five, they did not notice the shadow in the corner at all.

The shadow which Chiho pointed to looked up swiftly like it felt that it was being stared at by the others.

“Kyaaaa!”

Emi let out a silent scream and jumped out of her chair in her swimsuit.

Rather than saying that the shadow had no face, it was more accurate to say that the other party was just a shadow.

That black shadow which looked like a human child walked towards the beach under the gazes of its frozen audience.

“De, de, de, de, Demon King-sama.....”

After looking in the direction Ashiya pointed towards, the expressions of all those present froze again.

There was currently a commotion on the surface of the sea and the beach.

But these are not the tourists who came to enjoy the beach baths.

They are like the one who just walked out of the store, countless human shaped shadows.

Since an unknown time, in the bright and hot Kimigahama due to the summer sun, countless black shadows had gathered.

All those shadows have human shapes, and some of them even had swimming floats and beach balls, or were holding food and drinks.

But that is a huge gathering made up of only shadows.

“A, a, a, a, Amane-san, this is?”

The sudden appearance of this phenomenon flustered everyone because they knew nothing about this.

Even though they did not know what these countless shadows are, or if they had evil intentions, no matter what their thoughts were, they were not the normal human tourists from yesterday.

“Sigh, for things to turn out like this, all of you need to take some responsibility.”

Only Amane appeared totally unshaken and waved her hand nonchalantly.

“Wha, wha, what, what in the world is going on?”

A pale looking Maou stood his ground in front of Chiho to protect her while shouting this.

“About ‘demonic magic’ and ‘holy magic’, have all of you ever thought about what these things are?”

“Wha, what.....”

“Don’t people say that the sunrise has a special power? Actually there aren’t any vengeful spirits of the people who drowned or Snarling Spirits. This place is one of the few holy sites on Earth which allow the spirits to come to cleanse their souls. Sigh, even though it’s limited to the time period between the middle of July to the middle of August, they will be able to regain the peace in their hearts once they come here. My dad and I are fighting in order to protect the souls of the dead, and are like the guardians of this land. But.....”

Amane seemed to look towards Maou with a stern gaze.

“Your ‘demonic magic’ and ‘holy magic’, are things produced in worlds which are approaching destruction. Yesterday, especially, you released such strong demonic magic on the surface of the sea, causing a distortion in the perfectly balanced holy site, because of that, they lost the ‘human’ state

which they temporaily got back. So, I have to ask all of you to leave this place.”

“Worlds which are approaching destruction? What. what does that mean?”

Amane replied Suzuno with an intentionally faked smile,

“The Earth has many powers and mysteries which all of you do not know about. Since a long long time ago.....that’s right, even earlier than the birth of the gods.”

Even though it was obvious that Amane was changing topics, but she did not give Suzuno and the rest any opportunities to ask questions.

“Sigh, that’s the situation. Sorry, I will add more bonuses into your pay, about the money I will give all of you some preferential treatment and handle it properly, you can be assured about that.”

After saying this, Amane flicked her finger. Then----

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrom.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrromm.....

Worawrrrrrrrrrrrrrommm.....

The foghorn sounded.

With that sound, a dense fog which appeared from nowhere covered the whole beach like a ninja's smokescreen.

Due to the seawind and sanddust, Maou, who could barely open his eyes, heard Amane's voice.

“I am the Daughter of ‘Understanding’ of Earth.”

Logically, the other party is standing in front of them, but because of the disturbance of the wind and fog, Maou did not know which direction Amane's voice was coming from.

“Go search for the ‘knowledge’ in your world, and obtain the original state of your world. Aunt Mi-chan must be expecting you to complete this task.”

Amane's words ended there.

The instant the foghorn stopped, a gust of wind dissipated the fog.

When everyone regained their sight, the sea water baths of Kimigahama, the strange existances and the beach house Ooguro-ya had suddenly disappeared without a trace.

There wasn't even the original wide and bright expense of beach, the concrete footpath in front of them followed the shoreline closely because of the levees, and countless armoured blocks were scattered across the surface of the sea. These were similar to the things Chiho saw between the waves on the first day she came to Ooguro-ya. This shallow beach covered in reef did not look like it can be made into a seawater bath facility no matter how one looks at it.

Only Maou, Ashiya, Urushihara, Emi, Chiho and Suzuno were left at the scene, as well as their luggage, left on the footpath with sparse grass growing on it in a lonely manner.

“This, this, this.....”

Maou was shocked, and a chill ran out his spine.

“What in the world happened?”

Following the sea winds of Kimigahama, Maou's shout was carried far away over the surface of the sea.

Even though they probably weren't answering his shout, things resembling red papers drifted down from the sky, dropping by the feet of Maou and the rest. And after counting them, there were six of them.

“Ma, Maou-san, this is!”

Chiho showed the surface of the red papers to Maou.

“Reward.....packets?”

※

With two and a half days of work after including the preparation time, for one person to be able to get paid 50,000 yen, it only can be described as an unprecedented good haul.

Including the 10,000 yen for Chiho and Emi and Suzuno’s 20,000 yen, it was practically all the profit earned from the first day.

Considering that this is a mysterious phenomenon that even the king of the Demon World is unable to understand, the future direction of Ooguro-ya is worrisome.

“This, this money.....would it suddenly turn to leaves when we’re not noticing?”

After seeing the gathering of countless shadows, it wasn’t strange for Suzuno to suspect such a thing.

After everyone present examined the notes in their hands one by one like misers, someone said casually,

“.....let’s go home.”

As there was no place to hide from the sights of the others, Emi had no choice but to wear her dried clothes over her swimsuit.

To Maou and the others, the hotel at Cape Inubo and the lighthouse looked no different from their appearance in the past two days, but if they stopped a random passerby to ask if there was a seawater bath facility here, they would probably get a negative answer.

In the past, the landlady had also disappeared after showing an attitude that she seems to know something, making the most important piece disappear without a trace, so even if they wish to search for clues about the Ooguro-ya or Amane, they would probably turn up with nothing.

Just in case, they tried to dial Amane’s mobile number, but they only receives the message that there was no phone signal or that the phone was turned off.

“Demon King-sama, erhm, I found this near the luggage.”

Maou looked at the piece of paper Ashiya passed over.

“Rather than saying she is sly, it’s more of that I don’t really know the extent of how thorough she can be.....seriously.”

It was Amane’s handwritten tourist guide map of Choshi.

※

For the scenery in front of them, 330 degrees were made up of ocean.

And the height was enough to see the whole of Choshi city.

“So what, why don’t we just fly in the sky, ow!”

After Maou made Urushihara, who did not appreciate the feeling, keep quiet, he jumped on top of the steps of the platform in the middle of the observation deck.

“.....so broad.”

Facing the grand paronomic view where the Pacific Ocean and Choshi city can be seen from 360 degrees without any obstructions, Maou raised his head to look at the sky like he was taking a deep breath.

This place is the “Observatory where the round earth can be seen”.

(T/N: Mount Atago observatory: Mount Atago is a small mountain located about 1.5 km west of Cape Inubo, and the height is only about 74 meters. On the top, there is the observatory building. In Japanese, it is called "Chikyuu no maruku mieru oka tenboukan", and the long name means "Observatory

where we can see the round earth". From here, we can enjoy 360-degree view, and additionally we can see the sea with a 330-degree field of view.)

In addition, rather than saying it was an observation deck, it was more of a refined building roof, climbing up a hill from Inubosaki Station, and erecting a building on top of the hill, it became a unique tourist spot in Choshi.

Even though Maou and the rest planned to return immediately by via the Choshi Electric Railway, when they reached Inubosaki Station, a train had just left.

By a bad coincidence, the next train would take more than 30 minutes to arrive, and since it would be boring to stay there and wait, the group decided to come here since it was on the way, and saw a grand scenery which exceeded their expectations.

Even though the sunlight was strong, there were no clouds to be seen for miles, allowing people to see an unobstructed view of the whole of Choshi city.

Even though Inubosaki Lighthouse looked huge when one stood next to it, it looked so tiny when it was seen from here.

“Demon King-sama, how can you think such thoughts how such a small Choshi city? One day, you will need to conquer the whole of Ente Isla, what if Emilia misunderstands that your capacity is small?”

But Ashiya, if we did not borrow her strength, perhaps we would be unable to protect even this small Choshi city.”

“That.....perhaps it is like that.”

“Sigh, before that, if not for the power from you, Urushihara, Malacoda, Adramelech and Camio, I might not even be able to unify the Demon World. Then again, you were my enemy from the beginning as well. People who were my enemies become my comrades later on, supporting my conquest.”

Maou placed his hand on Ashiya’s shoulder.

“Don’t you think that humans will have the same potential as all of you?”

“.....I see, perhaps it is really like what you say.”

“Oh my, I thought you would be more surprised.”

“I am already used to Demon King making unorthodox actions.”

Ashiya’s calm reaction caused Maou to pout in dissatisfaction.

“Because isn’t that wasteful? Actually using that thing to generate electricity.”

Maou pointed to the giant wind turbines lined up at Byobugaura.

“Even though they have no demonic magic, they are still able to construct something like a sky tree which is even taller than the Demon Fortress.”

“Demon King-sama, according to the map, that should be Choshi Port Tower. The Demon Fortress is actually taller than that building.”

“It’s also the same for the Choshi Electric Railway, even though its appearance is old and it’s inconvenient, but it created a new culture because of that, how can be allow these people to die out just like that. Don’t you wish to conquer all these things as well?”

“It’s fine if you wish to expand your ambitions, but first think of a way to obtain demonic magic in a more stable manner.”

Ashiya gave a wry smile to Maou, whose eyes were shining like a child, then Emi suddenly asked,

“Then again, how did you guys get enough demonic magic to revert back to your original forms?”

Logically, in the areas around Inubo, there should be any incidents or accidents which occurred to be able to obtain negative feelings from a lot of humans.....

“Ah, didn’t Camio bring a sword over? That sword was my horn which you cut off.”

“.....Eh?”

Emi couldn’t help but be stunned after hearing this.

“It seems to be something Olba brought over. He used the shards of my horn to make a sword, but was unable to find any human who was able to wield it, and it became a negotiating chip with Camio in the end. But actually, the problem lies with this thing.”

Maou took out something from the pocket of his pants, and passed it to Emi.

It was the size of a marble, and emitted a purple glow under the sunlight.

“This, this is.....?”

“This jewel was hidden within the sheath. Didn’t Camio say this before? Olba left a clue to search for the holy sword, he should be referring to this.”

“Then, who was the one who made the sheath”

“I don’t think that Olba has the means to make a sword from my horn directly. Even though I don’t know where this thing was made, but it was

taken away by Olba later. Sigh.....if that's the case, I can sort of imagine what kind of person is backing Olba from the shadows.”

“Then again.....according to the internal investigations from the Church, Olba-sama did have a large number of shards from your horn.....but how can a sword be crafted from these shards?”

“How would I know.”

For Suzuno, who came to Japan to investigate Olba and the traces of Maou's horn, this is a situation which she cannot ignore.

After all, even until now, Olba was still an authority representing the Church in the Western Continent of Ente Isla.

What reasons did he have to carry out such actions, this was still a problem which has yet to be solved.

“The fragment of ‘Yesod’ was probably used to suppress my demonic magic? It was a safety against the leakage of demonic magic after changing my horn into a sword. The reason why Camio, the One Eyed Tattooed Demon, and the others were able to maintain their demon forms, is most likely because they used this. Sigh, but even though they were looking for the holy sword so frantically, allowing one of the fragments to slip out of his hands so carelessly, I don't know what he is thinking.”

Emi looked at the purple jewel in her hand ---- the fragment of ‘Yesod’.

“Anyway, this thing is useless in my possession, so it’s a gift to Alas=Ramus. And this might end up helping you as well?”

“Th, thanks.....wrong, that’s now how it should go!”

Emi, who involuntarily became honest, shook her head and said,

“Have you ever thought that this will only make me stronger? Just merging with Alas=Ramus was enough to defeat an archangel, you know?”

“Then you don’t want it?”

Maou tutted in a disinterested manner.

“Really, don’t underestimate my demonic magic too much, just the residual demonic magic from my broken horn was enough to cause four demons to transform back. So when I regain my original power, I will conquer everything, you included, prepare yourself.”

“What!”

Chiho, highly sensitive, heard what Maou said.

“Maou-san! What you said just now was referring to conquering the world, that’s what it is right?”

After Chiho said this, it felt as if the words ‘conquering the world’ had become much lighter, dissipating with the wind.

As for Emi----

“Wh, wh, wha, what nonsense are you spouting!”

She was red in the face and became very flustered.

“It’s still not too late. Quickly find Amane-san, forcefully send the Demon King and the others back to the Demon World and fight them immediately. Let’s do that, yeah, that should be done.”

Suzuno showed a dark expression and mumbled to herself like she was chanting a curse.

“Demon King-sama, we are in a public place, please exercise more restraint.”

“Maou, I feel embarrassed just hearing that from the side. The weather is so hot, and I don’t want to become more tan, just hurry up and come down already.”

Ashiya became frantic because of all the various dangerous meanings contained within Maou's sentence, and Urushihara continued to reproach him in a disinterested manner from a safe place.

“I, I.....this is the first time I experienced such shame!”

Emi's face became very red due to the anger she felt, and it was as if she would run over any moment to choke Maou.

Hopefully, she would not swing her holy sword in her frantic state.

The pitiful childish argument between human and demon was sucked into the miles of cloudless summer sky, vanishing without a trace.

Final Chapter

In the southern region of Isla Kentourm, where the Restoration Administration of the Central Continent of Ente Isla was located and where the various dispatches from different countries of the Five Continent Knight Alliances resided, there was a large city known as Norse Quatas.

Even though Ente Isla is already so peaceful that the various continents have started political disputes and power struggles, the report which reached the administration agency of Norse Quatas that morning, caused panic amongst the various important strategic locations and the commanders of the Knight Alliance.

The Afsahan Empire, which unified the Eastern Continent, one sidedly declared war against the Knight Alliances in the North, West and South continents under the name of the Unifying Azure Emperor. This meant that they planned to suppress the Central Continent by force.

Compared to other nations in the world, Afashan, who unified the Eastern Continent had a large amount of land and high population, but as the Eastern Continent was a nation which expanded due to one nation devouring the neighbouring nations, it had continuous internal strifes, and an unstable government.

On the seas between the North and South Continents, the navy troops for the two nations often have small scale conflicts and ceasefires, therefore everyone thought that the war declaration from Afashan was only an empty threat and need not be taken seriously.

However, the Knights Alliance received reports after that, saying that amongst the troops sent by Afashan to the boundaries of the various continents of North, Central and South, there were sightings of demons.

As a result, the decisive final blow occurred when all the members from the Eastern Knight Alliance were recalled back to their home nation, in essence, the Five Continent Knight Alliance had already fallen apart. Practically all the Knight Alliances returned to the continent they belonged to in order to protect their home nation.

Because of that, the Central Continent, the ambiguous zone without any battle power, was faced with extreme danger.

The war declaration of the Unifying Azure Emperor was merciless.

He rejected all requests related to harmony and peace, and gave a warning that unless they swore loyalty to Afashan, or presented a certain object to him, he would definitely not agree to sovereignty of the Central Continent.

And that ‘certain object’, made it difficult for the four continents opposing Afashan to form a united front.

As they were unable to forget the terror felt when under the rule of the Demon King Army, the North and South continent decided to bow to the Eastern Continent and started to take on the responsibility to investigate the ‘certain object’ which the Western Continent had.

As for the Western Continent, due to the animosity between the Church, which was still highly influential, and the holy Saint Aire nation, they were

unable to reach a consensus, and the peace in Ente Isla which lasted only two years officially ended.

As for the ‘certain object’ requested by Afashan----

it was the ‘Evolving Holy Sword, Better Half’.

----End----

Author, Afterword ----AND YOU----

Even I was still an elementary school student, I had gone to a beach with lodging during my family vacations, at that time, one of the flying rockets set off by a group of young people playing with fireworks went off course because of the strong sea wind and hit my hit, causing serious burns.

Thanks to the auntie at the hotel giving appropriate emergency aid, I bore no scars from the incident, but after that, there was a period of time when I was unable to use any fire spells in my games. Even though it doesn't feel like anything much when I wrote it here, but it is a serious mental trauma for young children. After all, hair will not grow out of the area which was burned for quite a long time.

Everyone, please clean up properly after you are done playing with fireworks and enjoy yourself while being respectful of the rules.

This time, with regards to the land created story for the ‘work’ stage for the Demon King and Hero, it was one of the goals when I conceptualized “The Devil is a Part Timer!”.

This land has two miracles.

One of them is excluding outlying islands and high mountains, this is the earliest place to see the sunrise on the main island, this is a miracle of nature.

The other is simply through a piece of Senbei, and a combination of timelessness, geographical advantage and unity, they were able to save the region and the industry, this is a miracle of human society.

They did not reply on charity or assistance, but tackled the money issues directly, and with continuous effort, polishing and charm, the internet and real human emotions were tied together, allowing the Choshi Electric Railway to continue in a stable manner. The author thinks that this story is an economic effect caused by humans through work, presenting a kind of ideal situation.

To be able to work in this land, it should be a precious experience for the Demon King and the others, but even if the author thinks so because of concern, the Demon King and Hero themselves probably didn't consider these things, and were focused on putting in their best effort in an unfamiliar land and workplace for the sake of the bustling life tomorrow, this book is describing this kind of story.

With regards to Urushihara's rude comment, he did not harbour any malice, and as for what Ashiya said after feeling troubled for a while, the author wants to offer his deepest apologies to the great people involved in the Choshi Electric Railway the the staff of the Apollo Project on behalf of these Demon Generals.

In addition, the actual Kimigahama Shiosai Park prohibits swimming because of the waves and current, and there is no beach house, so there is no way to enjoy a seawater bath, please understand everyone.

In a gratifying manner, this volume of “The Devil is a Part Timer!” finally entered the first anniversary of the series. At this point, to conclude this afterword, I offer my sincerest thanks to the editor A-san, the one in charge of the illustrations 029-san, AMW and the people responsible for proofreading, printing and circulation, the bookstores as well as you readers who picked up this book.



Credits

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